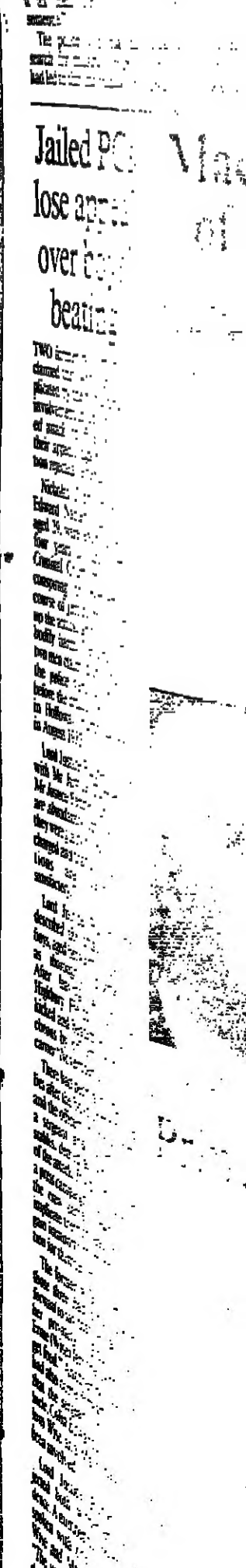


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Police dig for bodies of four young boys

By David Young

DETECTIVES in East London are investigating claims that at least four young boys may have been killed and buried on waste ground by a group of sex offenders who filmed the murder.

Police have revealed that one of the boys may be as young as eight and that the final figure for the number murdered may rise. The boys involved have been missing for a number of years.

Detective Chief Superintendent Roger Stoodley, who is in charge of the inquiry said: "We have been acting on information received. The original suggestion was that it was to do with paedophiles."

Detectives digging for the body of one of the youths in a car park beside a synagogue in East London for the past two days have postponed the search until after the Jewish Sabbath.

The site being searched by police, who are using a mechanical digger and have had three dogs assisting them, has been used as a car park for the past two years. They have emphasized that the synagogue has no connection with the investigation.

Police have confirmed that they were led to the spot by an informant. It is understood that he was brought from prison on Wednesday and indicated an area on the site where a body has been buried. The officers say they have received information about other possible burial sites.

Detective Chief Supt Roger Stoodley said yesterday that the search was the result of specific information and an on-site visit by an informant. "We have a person who has indicated there is a body here. He visited the site and indicated an area."

They believed the body they were looking for was of a youth under 16 who was killed as long as four to five years ago. He said: "We have information that the body was put here four to five years ago long before it was a synagogue. The ground was completely overgrown making it an ideal site to bury someone."

The police said that the search for missing teenagers had led to this site because the

information on other graves wasn't as reliable. The search for the body of at least one youth at the rear of the synagogue is the result of two separate tip offs.

Detective Chief Inspector David Easy said: "We are searching for the body of one youth as the result of information given to us about four months ago and in the last two weeks."

Mr Easy, who is also involved in child protection teams and a drugs squad, refused to comment on how they came by the information. "There is nobody in custody in connection with this and I cannot comment if anyone in custody is associated with the information we were given."

The police added that the search was more complex because the person they were looking for had not been officially reported as missing. A spokesman said: "We are looking for missing people who haven't been reported missing. There may be four people missing."

The police have denied that the investigation had anything to do with the murder of Jason Swift for which four men, part of a child sex ring, are serving sentences of between 13 and 19 years.

Officers started digging on the site beside the synagogue at Clapton Common two days ago. A Scotland Yard spokesman said the search involving about 20 officers follows a long inquiry into missing children.

Officers had stripped the hard core of the surface and are now down to a depth of four to five feet. The search will probably be abandoned when the clay strata is hit below the surface. Police have emphasized that their investigation will continue.

The police said: "All we know at this stage is that there are people who have been killed. There is a possibility that some may have been homeless, or some rent boys, but we do not know."

The search is expected to resume on Tuesday when officers will sift through the mounds of earth dug up. The identity of the body is still unknown, said the police.

Little ships brave a choppy Channel



Trip over troubled waters: Mike Turk (right) and Brian Ridge, bailing out the Jeff after a choppy crossing from Dover to Dunkirk yesterday

MR JOHN Castle's sketch book got a little damp on Thursday. It was something of a miracle that he was able to produce a collection of detailed drawings on board the Jeff as for more than 12 hours she pitched through the choppy seas of the Channel between Dover and Dunkirk (John Young writes).

The Jeff was never meant to go to sea. She is an open, fibreglass-bottomed boat, without so much as a stove or a lavatory, and from her home at Kingston-upon-Thames she takes trippers up and down the river. However, she was called to sea 50 years ago when, in what is regarded as a miracle, the Channel remained in a flat calm for 11 days to allow the evacuation of 340,000 people from the Normandy beaches.

Thursday was a bit different. In the morning, as the wind and rain began to blow, the boat was loaded with a large number of people, mostly from the Channel Islands, who had been evacuated from the continent.

One of his shipmates, Mr David Burgess, said that after three weeks' research, they recently found Mr. George

Cole, a Dunkirk veteran now 80. They had shown him the boat on which he had been evacuated.

He thought he recognized it but was not sure. Why was that, he was asked. "On account of the bullets and shells," he replied. "We just crouched and kept our heads down."

For Mr. and Mrs. Tom Lawrence, the boat was a sight to behold. They had been evacuated from the continent in 1940, and the boat was the first of the Watson design and was launched in 1932 by the future King George VI.

For 40 years she was based at Shoreham, Sussex, before Mr Lawrence bought her in 1973. She is now based at Canvey Island and makes regular trips to France.

A few boats positively revelled in the conditions, notably the three Thames barges, which cruise easily have outstripped the rest of the fleet had they not undertaken to act as rearguard.

A notice attached to one of them, Pudge, announced yesterday that she had taken 200 French soldiers off the Dunkirk beaches during the evacuation. She is now based at Maldon in Essex and is owned by the Thames Barge Sailing Club.

Mrs Elizabeth Wood, the club's historian, said yesterday that at least 30 Thames barges had taken part in the evacuation. Several of them had been abandoned on the beaches since the war.

Judge's blunder frees care officer jailed for rape

A CHILD care officer jailed for seven years for allegedly raping a 16-year-old girl in council care was freed yesterday because of a judge's error.

John Hall, aged 39, a former dockworker, walked free when the court quashed his conviction at the Central Criminal Court because of misdirections by the trial judge, Sir James Hoggins, QC, Recorder of London. He was found guilty last July of raping the girl in the office of a hostel for adolescents in care run by Southwark social services department. There was no appeal at the time that the south London court had shown Mr Hall, with no professional qualifications, to be a "man of straw".

Mr Hall, with no professional qualifications, to be a "man of straw".

Lord Justice Neill, sitting with Mr Justice Waterhouse, said: "We have been driven to the conclusion that this conviction should not be allowed to stand and must be quashed."

Mr Hall married with three children, of Rosshall House, Barnfield Estate, Plumstead, south-east London, claimed Sir James in his summing up had not put his defence adequately and fairly to the jury.

He also claimed that constant references to the distress of the girl "seriously damaged, if it did not completely undermine, the credibility" of his account of what happened.

Mr Hall had claimed the girl had gone into his office after a fight with her boyfriend and was crying. They went out to get food and drink and went back to the office where she consented to intercourse. The girl claimed she was raped and fled to her grandfather's home when Mr Hall went to answer the telephone.

Lord Justice Neill said the prosecution claimed the summing up was impeccable. But they were "troubled" by the complaints and having looked at all the criticisms they felt the case should have been left to the jury on the basis that there was no corroboration. But the judge's directions on corroboration were "less than clear".

They unanimously quashed the conviction.

He said he had not thought it was relevant at the trial because, at that time, the IRA used commercial explosives containing nitro-glycerine. Mr Hall said, however, that three weeks after the Maguire was arrested PETA was found in the fuse of an unexploded bomb at Alder shot which was then examined by Mr Hoggins's laboratory. The hearing resumes on Tuesday.

Jailed PCs lose appeal over boys' beating

TWO former policemen who claimed they were falsely implicated by their colleagues of involvement in an unprovoked attack on five boys had their appeals against conviction rejected yesterday.

Nicholas John Wise and Edward Napier Main, both aged 29, were each jailed for four years at the Central Criminal Court in 1987 for conspiring to "pervert the course of justice" by covering up the attack, and for causing bodily harm. Yesterday, the two men claimed they had left the police vehicle involved before the attack on the boys in Holloway, north London, in August 1983.

Lord Justice Russell, sitting with Mr Justice Turner and Mr Justice Fennell, said: "We are abundantly satisfied that they were guilty of the offences charged and that their convictions are safe and satisfactory."

Lord Justice Russell had described the attack on the boys, aged between 13 and 16, as "thoroughly disgraceful". After leaving a fair at Highbury Fields, they were kicked and beaten with truncheons by officers from the carrier "November 33".

There had been a morass of lies after the boys complained and the officers in the carrier, a sergeant and seven constables, denied all knowledge of the attack. It was only after a press campaign that three of the crew came forward to implicate their colleagues and gain immunity from prosecution for themselves.

The former wife of one of those three had since come forward to say that he had told her privately: "Eddie and Ernie (Wise) left the carrier to get food." Another policeman had also come forward to say that the sergeant in the vehicle, Colin Edwards, had told him Wise and Main had not been involved.

Lord Justice Russell rejected both witnesses' evidence. A number of others had spoken with one voice: "Wise and Main were there. The unanimity of that evidence is compelling," Lord Justice Russell said.

Mackay on role of the church

By Robert Gifford

LORD Mackay of Clashfern, the Lord Chancellor, said yesterday that he had not joined any other church since he resigned from the Free Presbyterian Church of Scotland a year ago after refusing to repeat for attending two Roman Catholic Requiem Masses.

Since his estrangement with the Free Presbyterians, Lord Mackay said he had continued to worship in different places according to the circumstances. He has, for example, worshipped at the Edinburgh church of the Associated Presbyterian Churches.



Lord Mackay: Has not joined any new church

the group that broke away from the Free Presbyterians as a result of the issue.

Speaking after a public meeting organized by a Church of Scotland fringe group, Lord Mackay said: "It was a new experience which has left me rather sad." The Lord Chancellor was excommunicated by the Free Presbyterians for as long as he held the view that his attendance at the funeral for Lord Russell of Killowen was correct.

Lord Mackay was invited to speak on the subject of Christian Faith and Political Decisions at a public meeting organized by the 1988 Forum at an Edinburgh church. He said the church did have a role to play in helping to govern the country. "I think the object of the church should be to present Christian teaching to the Government."

● A husband and wife are to share the post of minister at Falkirk old and St Modan's Church, Falkirk, the first couple to do so in Scotland.

Mr Graham Blount and his wife, Sheila, are to be inducted on June 22 and will share all the ministerial duties.

Breakaways escape, page 6

Europe aid for tunnel rail link

By Michael Dwyne, Transport Correspondent

THE European Commission is prepared to help to fund construction of the Channel tunnel high-speed rail link, Mr Karl Van Miert, the European Commissioner for Transport, said yesterday. There was no reason why it should not step in to help finance a project that was "absolutely essential" for the future of rail transport in Britain and Europe, he said.

His statement followed the postponement of the long-awaited government decision on whether to back the London to Folkestone link until after the White recess. The European Rail Link consortium, made up of British Rail, Trafalgar House and BICC, which is bidding for the project, is thought to be seeking a £400 million injection of government funds.

Mr Van Miert is expected to give a clearer indication of how much money Brussels would be able to offer Britain after the next meeting of EC transport ministers in Luxembourg on June 17. However, some commission officials have indicated the maximum that could be expected is about £200 million.

Farmers harvest minister's praise

By Michael Hornsby, Agriculture Correspondent

A GROUP of conservation-minded Suffolk farmers yesterday gave Mr John Gummer, the Minister of Agriculture, the first good news he has had for some time and a welcome, if brief, respite from "mad cow" disease.

At Westhorpe, near Stowmarket, in the heart of the Suffolk countryside, Mr Gummer was on hand to launch a report on the impressive work done by 121 farmers in the region to maintain and restore traditional features of the landscape.

Back in London, his ministry was announcing that tests were being carried out on a second cat from Bristol suspected of dying from a nervous illness similar to "mad cow" disease, though it was also disclosed that tests on a cat from Derby were negative. Mr Gummer was visiting a 50-square mile area that is living proof that East Anglia is not entirely inhabited by ruthless "barley barons".

The farmers decided on their initiative in 1984 after what they considered was unfair criticism in the press. Their first survey of the area was published in January, 1985. Now, with sponsorship from the agrochemical com-

pany, Ciba-Geigy, they have launched their second survey. Further proof, according to Mr Gummer, that Britain is "leading the rest of Europe in the renaissance of farming conservation".

One of the most striking facts of the survey is that the average field size is only a little over 20 acres, much smaller than the vast "prairies" now widely regarded as typical of this part of England.

Over the past five years, 9.5 miles of hedgerows have been planted along with 63,718 new trees, most of them local hardwoods, despite the loss of more than 4,500 trees in the hurricane of October, 1987, which set back new planting by a year.

Conservation can take less obvious forms. "Time was when production was king and you cropped every last inch of your land," Mr John Cousins, vice-chairman of the Suffolk branch of the Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group, said.

"Now we are realizing that you can do a lot for wildlife habitat just by leaving headlands and field corners untilled and uncropped margins round the edges of fields."

Princess faces action over shooting

By Alan Hamilton

THE owner of two dogs shot dead by a royal gamekeeper for allegedly savaging sheep on the Gatoombe Park estate in Gloucestershire has threatened to sue the Princess Royal.

Anna the alsatian and Fudge the cairn terrier were owned by Lady Edith Foxwell, aged 71, a granddaughter of Lord Cavan. Police confirmed yesterday that the dogs had been shot on Monday when the Gatoombe gamekeeper discovered them savaging sheep and found a lamb severely injured.

The dogs were being walked by Mr Peter King while Lady Edith was in hospital recovering from a shoulder injury. The police said that gamekeepers were within their rights to shoot dogs if they feared for their flocks and could not capture the animals by reasonable means.

From her hospital bed in Swindon yesterday, Lady Edith, the former wife of the film director Ivan Foxwell,

condemned the shooting as barbaric, and said she intended to take legal action.

"My dogs were lovely. They were calm, placid animals and they would never do a thing to hurt anyone. People should not be allowed to get away with this; it's all wrong."

After the shooting, a member of Lady Edith's staff took the bodies of the dogs to her home at Sherston, Wiltshire, and buried them in the grounds. Yesterday their bodies were exhumed for examination by a veterinary surgeon, while police continued to investigate the incident.

● A mongrel dog was put down in place of a pedigree weanaran that had been ordered to be destroyed for sheep worrying, Kilmarnock Sheriff Court was told yesterday.

Mr Peter Smith, an Airdrie veterinary surgeon, said that two days after the Kilmarnock court had ordered the dog to be destroyed in 1988, a man had taken a black

mongrel said to belong to Irene Whiteford to his surgery to be put down for sheep worrying. He said a certificate with his business heading stating that he had "put to sleep" a Weimaraner that day was, he said, not genuine.

A few days later, Mrs Whiteford, a dog breeder of Highford, Dalry, gave the certificate to police checking up on the court order. But the wording aroused their suspicions.

Mrs Whiteford told the police she had given the weanaran to a Dalry man, to take to the vet to be destroyed. Police witnesses said that writing samples showed the forged certificate had been written by the man, who fitted Mr Smith's description of the man who went to his surgery.

Charges against Mrs Whiteford of failing to comply with the destruction order and of attempting to pervert the course of justice by rendering a false certificate were found not proven.

Maguire inquiry scientist protests

By Ray Clancy

THE former head of a forensic laboratory that provided the main evidence that led to the imprisonment of Mrs Annie Maguire and six others for running an IRA bomb factory, yesterday broke down under cross examination at the inquiry into their cases.

Mr Douglas Higgs, who was the chief scientific officer at the Royal Armament Research and Development Establishment at Woolwich, south London, in 1974 when swabs taken from the Maguires and their house were submitted for examination, was in the witness box for the third day in a row.

Under pressure from Mr Anthony Arlidge QC, counsel for the Maguires, who was suggesting that Mr Higgs had failed to disclose factors to the trial in 1976 that could have cast doubt on the testing undertaken at the laboratory, the retired scientist said, "I am getting a bit agitated."

"I volunteered to come here," he said. "I volunteered documents that are being used against me. I am getting to the stage where I want to leave. I know that I cannot be compelled to give evidence, but that is the way I feel at the moment."

Sir John May, the former Court of Appeal judge who is heading the inquiry, intervened and said: "I am sorry about that. I am sure you want to give me all the help you can." Sir John said he appreciated it was difficult to remember events that took place 16 years ago.

Mr Higgs replied: "If (Mr Arlidge) is getting to the stage where he wants to discredit me, can't he do it quickly?"

Mrs Maguire, now aged 54, her sons Patrick, aged 29, and Vincent, aged 31, her brother Mr Stan Smith, aged 52, her husband Patrick, aged 57, his brother-in-law Giuseppe Conlon, who died in prison aged 52, and Mr Patrick O'Neill, aged 49, a family friend, were jailed for between five and 14 years after being found guilty of handling nitro-glycerine, an explosive compound widely used by the IRA in the 1970s.

The thin, layer chromatography test (TLC) was said at the trial to be as accurate as fingerprints in identifying a suspect. However, at the inquiry hearing, Mr Higgs admitted that another explosive substance, PETN, was capable of producing results that could be confused with nitro-glycerine.

He said he had not thought it was relevant at the trial because, at that time, the IRA used commercial explosives containing nitro-glycerine. PETN was a high grade military explosive.

Mr Arlidge said, however, that three weeks after the Maguires were arrested PETN was found in the fuse of an unexploded bomb at Alder shot which was then examined by Mr Higgs's laboratory. The hearing resumes on Tuesday.

Last time the soldiers of Dunkirk appealed for help people risked being shot, torpedoed and bombed.

A small donation now won't kill you.

Help The Royal British Legion build a home to care for veterans of Dunkirk. Please send your donations to: The Dunkirk Memorial Appeal, Effingham, Surrey KT24 5JP, or call in at any branch of the Halifax Building Society. Credit card donations can be made simply by phoning 0839 600 999.



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Scientists sound alarm on runaway greenhouse effect

By MICHAEL MCCARTHY
ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

THE world's leading meteorologists issued a unanimous warning yesterday that 200 years of industrialization have begun a runaway heating of the earth's atmosphere.

Addressing international policy-makers, they emphasized the reality of the greenhouse effect, the retention in the atmosphere of an increasing amount of the earth's radiated heat by industrial gases such as carbon dioxide (CO₂) from coal-fired power stations and motor vehicles.

In language of unaccustomed firmness for scientists speaking of the future, they predicted, on the basis of nine computer models of the global climate, that if the world's economies continued with business as usual, global mean temperatures would rise by about one degree Centigrade by 2025, by three degrees

before the end of the 21st century, and would carry on rising. The scientists said the rises could be higher in areas such as North America and southern Europe.

Such increases would be enormous and would threaten the viability of much of civilization through disrupted weather patterns, continent-wide crop failure and the flooding of low-lying land areas as the warming waters of the sea expanded and caused sea levels to rise.

The group which reported yesterday, members of working group one of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the body set up in 1988 to investigate global warming by the United Nations Environment Programme and the World Meteorological Organization, did not deal with the impacts of the warming. Those will be spelled out by working group two, chaired by the Russians and reporting in Moscow next week, while response strategies will be the subject of the

working group three report to be published under American chairmanship in Geneva in a fortnight.

All three documents will be brought together in the panel's full report in August, on the basis of which the international community will begin to confront the problem of global climate change at the World Climate Conference in Geneva in November.

Yesterday's report by working group one, chaired by Dr John Houghton, chief executive of Britain's Meteorological Office, addressed itself strictly to the scientific assessment of the problem — how much temperatures will rise and how quickly — and brought together the pooled knowledge of the world's 300 meteorologists. For all their diversity of nationality and background, it was unanimous. Its co-ordinator Dr Geoffrey Jenkins, another meteorological scientist, arranged its summary to set out carefully what was certain, what was

calculated with confidence, what was predicted on the basis of current computer models, what was uncertain, and what was the group's consensus judgement, allowing the language to be unusually strong.

They were certain, the scientists said, of the existence of the "natural" greenhouse effect, by which gases in the atmosphere such as water vapour and naturally occurring carbon dioxide have for hundreds of millions of years reflected back some of the earth's escaping heat and kept the world more than 30 degrees Centigrade warmer than it would otherwise be, and so suitable for life. They were also certain, they said, that "emissions resulting from human activities are substantially increasing the atmospheric concentrations of the greenhouse gases: carbon dioxide, methane, the chlorofluorocarbons and nitrous oxide. These increases will enhance the greenhouse effect, resulting on average in

an additional warming of the earth's surface."

They calculated with confidence, they said, that some gases were more effective than others and that carbon dioxide "has been responsible for over half the enhanced greenhouse effect in the past and is likely to remain so in the future"; that continued emissions of those gases, as they are long lived, would commit us to increased concentrations "for decades to centuries"; and, in their most significant warning, to policy-makers, that to stabilize their concentrations at today's levels would require "immediate reductions in emissions of over 60 per cent".

Basing themselves on current computer model results, they said that they predicted that under the "business-as-usual" scenario for world economies, there would be a rate of increase of global mean temperature during the next century of about 0.3 degrees Centigrade per decade (with an uncertainty range of

0.2 degrees Centigrade to 0.5 degrees Centigrade per decade) — "this is greater than that seen over the past 10,000 years"; that this would result "in a likely increase in global mean temperature of about one degree Centigrade above the present value by 2025 and three degrees Centigrade before the end of the next century"; and that temperatures in some regions were predicted to be higher.

In another ominous warning, the scientists said: "The complexity of the system means that we cannot rule out surprises." Turning to what is already happening, they said that global mean surface air temperature has increased by 0.3 degrees Centigrade over the past hundred years, with the five global-average warmest years being in the 1980s. Over the same period, they said, the global sea level has increased by 10 to 20 centimetres.

Leading article, page 11

Technology available to cut emissions

By NICK NUTTALL, TECHNOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

MR GERALD Leach, a member of the Government's Advisory Committee on Renewable Energy, yesterday gave details of the readily available technologies which could help cut Britain's carbon emissions by a fifth over the coming years.

He has identified six key areas in which consumers can play a role and trim 10 per cent or 16 million tonnes of carbon gas from the 166 million tonnes discharged each year.

Mr Leach believes households will become increasingly dependent on electrical gadgets and it is practical to presume that half of the 22 million domestic refrigerators could be switched to new ones, which can be up to 25 per cent more efficient. Other energy savings could come from new television sets and washing machines which are also 25 per cent more efficient than most existing units.

Apart from greater use of insulation and double glazing in industry, offices and homes, Mr Leach believes 100 million light bulbs could be cost-effectively switched to the "compact fluorescent" kind. These typically cost £15 each rather than the more normal 40p but use 20 instead of 40 watts and burn for 10,000 hours.

The other key area is use of gas condensing boiler systems for central heating. They are more expensive than traditional systems, but are claimed to be 30 per cent more efficient than rival modern boilers and 30 per cent more efficient than old boilers. Mr Leach said that use of such measures would cost £8 billion but through energy savings would save consumers money.

He said that transport is another field in which carbon savings can be made. His report is based on independent calculations and Department of Energy figures.

His calculations assume a combination of more fuel efficient cars and government intervention, including company car restrictions, possible rebates on road tax for smaller vehicles and a 5 per cent switch to rail and public transport.

Mr Leach envisages the nation's energy requirement falling from 49 gigawatts (GW) to around 40GW a year as users become more efficient. He assumes that no more nuclear plants will be built here after Sizewell B and that no more coal and oil fired stations will be built, with some older ones being retired.

Cuts in carbon emissions of 30 per cent between 1987 and 2005 will be possible if more energy comes from less polluting gas fired combined cycle plants, from energy conservation plants called combined heat and power stations, and from renewable sources are encouraged.

By these measures Britain could cut its fuel bill by billions of pounds while curbing its carbon emissions by an estimated 20 per cent.



Building with straw: Mr George Carter putting the final touches to Strawhenge, made with 74 tons of straw and the centrepiece of the agricultural display at the Creation Festival at Salisbury Cathedral which starts today. The festival aims to promote local and worldwide conservation

Downing Street fails energy conservation test

By DAVID SAFSTED

Better insulated houses and better management of energy in general, Mrs Thatcher said yesterday, were in the vanguard of the battle against the potentially catastrophic effects of global warming.

Unfortunately, the message has not yet reached 10 Downing Street. The Prime Minister's rambling abode had

been adjudged by experts as an example of how not to live in the 1990s. Mr Andrew Warren, director of the Association for the Conservation of Energy, emerged from the men's lavatory at Downing Street a few months ago to pronounce it overlit, over-heated and "completely out of tune with modern thinking on energy conservation".

No 10's shortcomings extend fur-

ther: it has inadequate insulation, limited double-glazing, energy-wasteful lighting, and a central heating system which "could have come out of the Ark", according to Dr Amory Lovins, head of the Rocky Mountain Institute in Colorado, the foremost centre on energy conservation.

Neither the Department of Energy nor Downing Street could say yesterday what was being done to

improve the situation. Experts estimate that energy conservation measures can be seven times more cost-effective in cutting carbon dioxide emissions than new energy supply facilities.

Mr Warren said: "Downing Street is not a building that could easily be brought up to Milton Keynes standards of energy efficiency, but someone should be making the effort."

JP quits in protest at poll tax

THE deputy chairman of Aylesbury magistrates, Buckinghamshire, Mr Edward Jones, has resigned because he is not prepared to sit in judgement on people who appear in court for not paying their poll tax.

Mr Jones, aged 64, says the poll tax is unjust and immoral. "I have no wish to assist in the enforcement of this tax". It would leave him "unable to adjudicate fairly" on non-payment prosecutions.

Judgement later on advert ban

Judgement was reserved in the High Court yesterday on a challenge to Labour-controlled Dorsetshire County Council's decision to ban advertisements in the *Times Educational Supplement*, the *Times* Supplement, *News International*, *Times Newspapers*, and *Pauline Latham*, a councillor, seek a declaration that the decision was unlawful.

Chainsaw plea

Mr Peter Jenkin-Jones, the Nottinghamshire coroner, called yesterday for a change in the rules on chainsaw hire after hearing that Mr Michael Briskley, aged 62, a retired schoolteacher of Southwell who died in an accident, was not told how to use the machine.

P&O plea fails

An attempt by P&O European Ferries to have manslaughter charges against it dropped was rejected in the Central Criminal Court yesterday. The company was charged as a result of the capsizing of the *Herald of Free Enterprise* off Zeebrugge in March 1987, which cost 193 lives.

SDP fights on after humiliation of trailing Monster Loonies

By RICHARD FORD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Social Democrats yesterday continued to press for a deal with the Liberal Democrats on fighting parliamentary seats, in spite of polling fewer votes in the Bootle by-election than the Monster Raving Loony Party.

Labour held the seat, increasing its share of the vote from 67 to 75 per cent. The Conservative candidate only narrowly held on to second place ahead of the Liberal Democrats.

Dr David Owen, the Social Democrat leader, was unavailable to comment on the result, in which his party secured only 155 votes. It was the second consecutive by-election in which the party had lost its deposit, and one of its MPs said it could no longer rely on the support of its MPs in the House of Commons where the SDP had little base.

Mr John Cartwright, SDP MP for Woolwich, said he had

BOOTLE RESULT

Mr Carr (Lab)	28,737
J Clapperton (Con)	8,220
J Cunningham (Lib Dem)	3,179
S Brady (Green)	1,287
K White (Lib)	474
Lord D Smith (Loony)	419
J Holmes (SDP)	155
T Schofield (Ind)	27
Labour majority	23,517
Total vote 36,477	Turnout 50.2
General election: Alan Roberts (Lab) 24,875; D Papworth (Con) 10,488; P Dutton (SDP All) 6,820.	
Lab maj: 24,477.	

been unhappy at the decision to fight in Bootle, where Labour had a 24,477 majority at the general election. The Alliance came third then with 6,820. "People vote Labour or Tory on the basis of deeply held loyalty, but the SDP must demonstrate some work in the areas," Mr Cartwright said. "I don't think, when we have a limited amount of resources and one of them is public

credibility, it was worth the risk of standing in areas where the result was going to be very, very poor."

The SDP and Liberal Democrats have agreed not to stand against each other in four south London constituencies. The Liberal Democrats will not challenge Mr Cartwright in Woolwich or Mrs Rosie Barnes in Greenwich, and the SDP will stand in Southwark and Bermondsey, held by the Mr Simon Hughes, or in Labour-held Vauxhall.

Mr Cartwright said the SDP had offered the Liberal Democrats a deal in which they not stand against Mr Paddy Ashdown's party in Ryedale, North Yorkshire, in exchange for a free run in Richmond. The Liberal Democrats show little enthusiasm for any arrangement. A spokesman for Mr Ashdown said: "I can't see what we should be negotiating about. I can't believe the SDP are much longer for

this world. What can they offer?"

Labour's candidate, Mr Michael Carr, a full-time Transport and General Workers' Union official, said his victory in the poll, caused by the death of Mr Alan Roberts, clearly indicated that before long there would be a Labour government. He held the seat with a majority of 23,517 after quiet campaign in which the Conservatives had accused him of being an "invisible man". The result represented a swing from Conservative to Labour of 9.75 per cent compared with a 21 per cent swing in the Mid Staffordshire by-election in March and an 11 per cent swing in the local elections.

Mr Neil Kinnock, the Labour leader, said: "We are well on course. This is an excellent result for a first-class candidate. In a safe Labour seat on a low poll we still achieved an extraordinary increase in our share of the vote."

Young bows out before Rover report

By SHEILA GUNN, POLITICAL REPORTER

AN ALMOST audible sigh of relief escaped Tory MPs at the departure of Lord Young of Grafton from party headquarters before Sir Leon Brittan pronounced his verdict on the handling of the Rover sale to British Aerospace by the former Secretary of Trade and Industry.

As the EC commissioner puts the final touches to his report there is little doubt he will demand the repayment of the £38 million "sweeteners" sanctioned by Lord Young and criticize the £150 million price tag put on the car firm and the exclusive negotiating rights offered to BAe.

If Lord Young had still occupied an office at Smith Square when Sir Leon's delivered his bombshell, the party would have been required to rally around him and at least postpone the withdrawal of his official political status within the party.

During nearly five years in Mrs Margaret Thatcher's

Cabinet, the ambitious self-made entrepreneur stirred resentment in Tory breasts which, on occasion, smacked of envy and anti-Semitism. For this was the man who, as MPs liked to point out, had never been elected to anything in his life and yet enjoyed a privileged position with their Prime Minister. Her accolade that, while other Cabinet ministers brought her problems, David brought her only solutions has passed into Westminster folklore.

In addition those who worked closely with him at the departments of employment and trade and industry look back with admiration at the man who, they say, stirred the "paper-shufflers" and got things done.

His rise began when as chairman of Manpower Services Commission he was charged with getting down the unemployment figures. The son of Lithuanian immigrants found himself in the House of

Lords — and the Cabinet. His troubles started with the "Balkan Wars" over election strategy in 1987 at Conservative Central Office with his erstwhile champion, Mr Norman Tebbit. Young's first big political blunder was to underestimate the power of the "Willie faction" by imagining that Tory stalwarts would allow him to grab both the chairmanship and remain Secretary of State for Trade and Industry. His failure left him bruised but not beaten.

He also weathered the collapse of the investment group Barlow Clowes and a range of contentious take-over bids with the House of Fraser proving the most enduring. Only this week, his failure to refer the Fayed brothers' bid to the MMC in late 1988 was criticized by the Commons trade and industry committee.

The brewers provided his critics with the most powerful ammunition by proving his political naivete. He was true

to his Thatcherite free market ideology by stating that he was "minded" to accept the MMC's plan for breaking up the big brewers' monopoly on tied houses without accounting for the brewers' traditional and generous support to the Tory Party. The U turn he was slowly forced to perform denied his enthusiasm for Westminster politics.

His departure from the Cabinet to a part-time desk at Central Office was quickly followed by a resumption of his business career. However it emerged yesterday that, again, reports of his political death may be greatly exaggerated.

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Bowbelle's owners to settle claims 'quickly'

By RAY CLANCY

THE chairman of the parent company that owns one of the ships involved in the Thames pleasure boat disaster last August, in which 51 people died, yesterday apologized to survivors and bereaved families and promised that all claims for compensation would be met.

At an emotionally charged annual general meeting in Mayfair, London, Mr John Camden, chairman of Ready Mixed Concrete, the multinational supplier of building materials, was confronted by angry shareholders from the Marchioness Action Group demanding to know why the company had made no payments nine months after the disaster and accusing them of delaying tactics.

As the company announced pre-tax profits of £248 million, the action group drew support from many of the shareholders. One stood up during the meeting and said it was an "absolute disgrace" that no compensation had been paid to the victims. That resulted in the chairman giving a public apology.

A dozen members of the action group had each bought £100 worth of shares so that they could attend the meeting. Outside the London hotel where the meeting was held, another 60 members of the action group, including some survivors, staged a protest.

In his opening address, Mr Camden said: "Shareholders will not have failed to notice people gathering outside who have come to protest. I would like to say on behalf of RMC that we express our sincere sympathy to all those who suffered in this ordeal and particularly those who suffered a personal loss," he said.

Mr Camden admitted there had been complaints about the way the company had handled claims for compensation. "We wish all claims arising from the Marchioness accident to be dealt with properly and promptly," he said, adding that he was "puzzled" as to why no claims had yet been put forward.

Mr Ian Philpott, the vice-chairman of the action group, who survived the tragedy and lost his girlfriend, told the meeting that many survivors had been unable to work since the disaster because of psychological problems. He asked the chairman to reconsider the company's position on compensation and make immediate interim payments of £5,000 to every survivor and bereaved family, to pay costs

from the inquest, currently £60,000, and to lift a writ obtained in the High Court obliging those claiming compensation to go through the Admiralty Court, "a lengthy and costly business".

"If you were to agree to this, it would amount to just half a per cent of the £248 million pre-tax profits you have announced today. I urge you to look again at your position and help us rebuild our lives," Mr Philpott said.

Mr Camden replied that the mechanism for claims had been in place since last October and he could not understand why victims and their families had not put claims forward.

Mr Philpott said it was because they didn't yet know how much to claim. "In my own case I lost my girlfriend and my business. Last week, I had to mortgage my flat against my business overdraft. Others have suffered severe psychological problems. It is very difficult to submit a claim when you can't put a price on what you have lost."

"We can remember graphic details of what happened that night," he said, asking how people could be expected to submit claims when they were wrestling with psychological problems.

Mr Camden said they should submit interim claims, which would be met. When challenged by a shareholder, he also apologized for making no mention of the tragedy in the annual report.

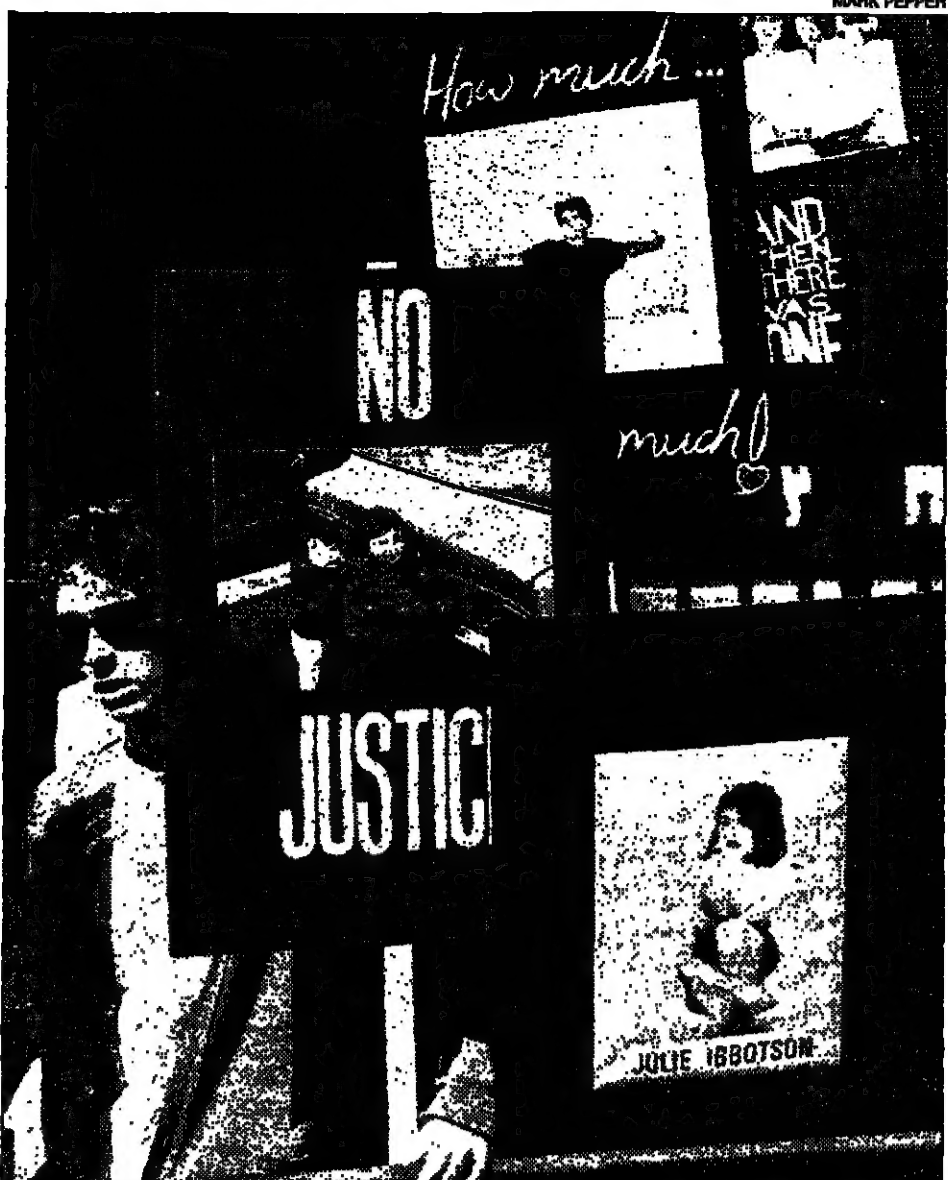
Mr John Smith, a shareholder, said he was "disgusted" to find out only at the meeting that the company owned the Bowbelle. "Without this protest today I would not have known about this connection. It is a disgrace that the company has not given anything to the trust fund, yet has donated £35,000 to the Conservative party."

Afterwards, Mr Philpott said any compensation claims would be long and expensive. "Our lawyers say the only way we can claim is through the courts. Mr Camden says claims can be met quickly. We are fed up being messed about. Now we will consult our lawyers again."

He added that they would also be looking into the possibility of bringing corporate manslaughter charges against the company.

● The inquest into the 51 deaths in the disaster may be adjourned until the trial of the captain of the Bowbelle ends. Dr Paul Knapman, the coroner for Westminster, was told yesterday at a resumed hearing that to continue with the inquest would "prejudice the fair trial" of Captain Douglas Henderson, accused of failing to keep a proper lookout on his vessel.

Mr Graham Boal, representing Mr Allan Green QC, the Director of Public Prosecutions, said part one of the inquest, dealing with evidence on seven of the victims, could be concluded, but no evidence could be heard on the second stage: the deciding who was responsible. The coroner will announce his decision on June 6.



Protesters, including survivors, calling for compensation claims to be met quickly

Clergyman defends Sunday trading

A CLERGYMAN told a court yesterday that DIY stores should be allowed to open on Sundays and that Christians should be free to do what they want on the sabbath.

The Rev William Oddie, who was giving evidence to magistrates in Cowbran, Gwent, after being called as a witness by the B&Q chain, said: "If someone chooses to work on Sunday it should be a matter of their personal liberty to do so. The mark of a Christian Sunday is the freedom from restrictions."

In the case, which has been referred to the magistrates from the European Court, B&Q denies contravening the law by opening its Cowbran store on Sundays. Dr Oddie said it was "grotesque" to suggest that quiet, peaceful Sundays would be spoiled by DIY stores opening.

He said that as a parish priest he found it a benefit having a DIY store near by on Sundays. "I would call in there on my way home on Sundays and see lots of people with their families. It's a place where people go for innocent amusement. I find it curious but they stay there for hours."

Dr Oddie said that the stores were quite peaceful places.

Judgement was reserved until June 11.

New backers pledged for Juno mission

By NICK NUTTALL

TECHNOLOGY CORRESPONDENT
PROFESSOR Heinz Wolff, key scientific adviser to the Juno mission, flew to Moscow from London yesterday in to try to put the project back on course.

The high-profile mission aimed at putting a Briton into space had been considered doomed after a decision by the mission's guarantors, the Moscow Narodny Bank in London, to withdraw support. Just before his departure yesterday, however, Professor Wolff said that "lots of people" had since pledged support for the scheme.

These pledges are subject to Soviet assurances that the flight is going ahead. Soviet space officials, however, have indicated they will continue the project, originally scheduled for blast-off early next year, only if Juno organizers can prove that the backers are serious.

Professor Wolff, who declined to identify the backers, said: "It is a vicious circle which I hope to break by going to Moscow." Mission officials have always maintained that Juno was far from dead when, in March, the bank suddenly pulled out, leaving the scheme an estimated £14 million short

of the £16 million needed. During the last two months both British candidates, Miss Helen Sharman, a food technologist, and Major Timothy Mace, of the Army Air Corps, have continued training at Star City, the cosmonauts' training centre 30 miles from Moscow.

Air Vice-Marshal Peter Howard, a member of the Juno team, confirmed they were optimistic about the mission's future. "There is a sufficiency of money to keep the project going but I do not want to quote the sums involved," he said. "If Glavcosmos (the Soviet space agency) will give the guarantees and are reasonably satisfied that the money is there, then the money will be forthcoming."

The move comes as the two astronauts are to meet the Princess Royal at a reception at the British Embassy in Moscow this afternoon. Air Vice-Marshal Howard said that the meeting would "do nothing but good" for the future of the mission.

The decision on which of the two British astronauts will fly if the mission is saved will probably be made in July. That would be when Soviet officials would select two crews, each with two cosmonauts and one Briton.

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Fireball engulfed rig, inquiry told

By KERRY GILL

THE skipper of a North Sea standby vessel told a fatal accident inquiry yesterday how he watched as three large explosions rocked the Ocean Odyssey drilling rig which was then engulfed in a ball of fire.

Mr John Robson, skipper of the Notts Forest, was giving evidence to the inquiry in Aberdeen into the death of Mr Timothy Williams, aged 25, a radio operator, after the explosions on the rig about 130 miles east of Aberdeen in September, 1988.

Mr Robson's vessel was stationed about 300 yards from the Ocean Odyssey. He saw a gas cloud develop between the bottom of the rig and the sea surface. There was loud "screaming" noise as gas was vented from the rig's derrick followed by an explosion and fire ball, he said. He then saw two lifeboats launched into what appeared to be a sea of flames and workers jumping for their lives as the rig was covered in fire.

He said there had been a gas alert and the rig had asked him to bring his vessel alongside. He could see the vapour cloud gathering around the Ocean Odyssey. About an hour later, the first explosion occurred.

"I suddenly saw the ball of flames. I ran into the wireless room and put a May Day call out," Mr Robson said. After the first explosion the rig's lifeboats had been launched

but then there was a second explosion and he launched his rescue boat.

He said that after the second explosion he saw five men clambering over handrails to reach the end of the rig. One man clambered down one of the legs and the others jumped into the sea to be picked up by the rescue boat.

During the second explosion an RAF helicopter, heading towards the rig, was forced to veer away as debris was hurled into the air. Once the rescue boat had taken the five survivors on board Mr Robson noticed three more abandon the installation. He told the inquiry he had no radio communication with the Ocean Odyssey after seeing the three get off the rig. Two days later Mr Williams's body was discovered in the pilot house.

Detective Constable Donald Scobie, of Tayside police, said he had searched the rig after it had been towed to Dundee harbour. A smoke-damaged telex in the radio operator's room read: "OK, blowout controllable at present."

Another message, sent earlier, said that all essential and non-essential personnel were at lifeboat stations and the drill crew was attempting to fight and control the blowout.

The inquiry continues on Tuesday.

Brooke initiative on course to promote Ulster talks

By EDWARD GORMAN
IRISH AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

MR PETER Brooke emerged from his latest round of "talks about talks" at the Northern Ireland Office in London on Thursday and allowed himself a rare, if not a little self-conscious, grin.

He looked modestly happy, a diagnosis confirmed by those working closely with him who say the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland is in good spirits and approaching his self-styled role of mediator in Ireland with relish.

It was some time ago that a senior civil servant first coined a catchphrase for him which neatly encapsulated his cautious but persistent approach. In reply to endless questions about whether or not his efforts to promote dialogue between politicians in Northern Ireland were advancing towards the Government's goal of talks on devolution, Mr Brooke would say, and still does: "Inter-party talks

are, at this stage, a possibility rather than a probability." The events of the past week have for the first time tempted him towards "probability" though he chose with characteristic caution to stay with "possibility" for the time being.

It is difficult to be precise about the distinct change in atmosphere surrounding Mr Brooke's efforts this week because no-one outside the small circle of participants knows exactly what it is that he is proposing nor to what degree it has been accepted by all concerned.

There is a definite sense however, that the "Brooke initiative" has begun to generate its own momentum which is having the effect of tying in the Unionists in particular and putting pressure on each of the party leaders not to be seen to be the first to wreck the process. What does seem clear is that Mr Brooke is overseeing the empirical testing of an approach to

the internal political stalemate in Ulster which attempts to address, as Mr John Hume, the Social Democratic and Liberal Party leader, would have it, the "totality of relationships" involved.

Among his key objectives, and the one where significant progress may have been made this week, is to manoeuvre Unionists into a position where, in return for concessions on three pre-conditions for entering talks, they are prepared to acknowledge a precise role for Dublin at a later stage.

Civil servants like to point out that the "Brooke initiative" did not really begin with the Secretary of State's keynote speech in Bangor, Co Down, in January, but was simply a logical expansion of efforts over 10 years to advance towards a devolved administration in Belfast capable of attracting cross-community support.

The ministerial shuffle last summer provided the opportunity for a

fresh approach. Mr Brooke, it was pointed out at the time, and since confirmed by events, had greater potential flexibility and credibility when it came to promoting political dialogue than his predecessor, Mr Tom King, who was tarnished in the eyes of Unionists by his direct association with and defence of the Anglo-Irish Agreement.

Mr Brooke embarked on his mission on January 9 when he addressed a businessmen's lunch in the upstairs suite of a small hotel overlooking Belfast Lough in Bangor. In that speech he said he believed there was enough "common ground" among leaders of the constitutional parties in Northern Ireland to form the basis of a devolved government.

Mr Brooke's speech came after a series of so-called "get to know you" sessions with Northern Ireland leaders and the Irish Government. It has been followed in turn

by intensive rounds of talks between Dublin and Belfast and between Mr Brooke and leaders of the SDLP and the two Unionist parties, Mr James Molyneux and Mr Ian Paisley.

Even as the Secretary of State embarks on the next phase of exchanges, he is still battling against considerable scepticism and cynicism from those who say Mr Molyneux in particular is not sincere in his apparent willingness to enter talks.

It has even been suggested that the Ulster Unionist Party leader may be simply playing along with Mr Brooke, waiting for the process to run aground at a later stage, to prove as he has always claimed, that talks on devolution will not work.

In the SDLP the scepticism is still strong, with party officials privately concerned that Mr Molyneux and Mr Paisley will do all they can to stall the process if it

looks as though talks are becoming dangerously close. One well-placed observer said he believed the Unionists had embarked on a reckless "pub crawl" of pro-conditions which was not over yet and implied that sooner or later they would come up with one that even Mr Brooke could not circumvent. In Dublin, Mr Brooke's efforts have been regarded with similar scepticism — only overcome by intensive discussion with British officials.

Mr Brooke in his public comments has always countered fears that he may be inadvertently causing long-term damage by using the analogy of a race course being tackled, somewhat strangely, by a jockey carrying a tent on his back. He says that if the process gets stuck at the first fence or any other, he will camp there rather than go back to the start so that future efforts could restart at that point.

Farmers 'ignoring safety rules'

RAIDS on farms by health and safety inspectors uncovered extensive flouting of safety rules, a report disclosed yesterday. Health and Safety Executive inspectors found chain saws being used without protective gear, children riding on tractors, unguarded slurry stores where victims could drown, and dangerous electrical wiring.

Other hazards included tractors without safety cabs and poor brake maintenance in trailers. The checks, in Cumbria and Lancashire, followed a publicity campaign more than one in five spot checks resulted in orders to stop work because of dangerous practices.

The executive said most farmers obeyed safety laws, but added: "Some still continue to put themselves, their workers and their families at serious risk by ignoring safety rules and breaking the law."

Out of 450 checks on farms and forests almost half required action to enforce safety rules. The latest annual report from the executive listed 53 farm deaths nationwide and 639 serious injuries.

Paving stone thieves strike

Hundreds of square metres of pavement have vanished in Islington, north London. An organized gang is stealing the York stone paving in the borough's conservation areas. The paving, which costs £100 a metre, would cost £10,000 to replace. "People don't take much notice of a workman taking up the pavement," a council spokesman said.

Couple remanded

David Adams, aged 62, and his wife, Julia, aged 54, of Ladyman Court, west Belfast, were remanded in custody by Belfast magistrates yesterday charged with making their home available to terrorists on the day of an IRA bomb attack on the Short's aircraft complex in the city in November.

200 new jobs

A £15 million depot for the distribution of chilled food, being built by William Low, the supermarket group, will create about 200 jobs in Livingston, Lothian. The depot is to become operational in October and will supply 70 stores in Scotland and North-east England.

Algae reappears

Anglian Water Authority has posted warnings on the shores of Rutland Reservoir in Leicestershire after the discovery of potentially toxic algae. Last year, the reservoir was closed to the public after 38 sheep and dogs died when they drank water containing the blue green algae.

Two-year deal

Five thousand white collar engineering workers at Vickers Shipbuilding Engineering in Barrow, Cumbria, yesterday accepted a pay offer of 9.15 per cent this year and an inflation-linked 5.2 per cent next year, and a cut of an hour this year and one the next for those on a 39-hour week.

Killer jailed

Michael Wheldon, a building worker, of Brixton, south London, was sentenced to eight years imprisonment by the Central Criminal Court yesterday for the manslaughter of his friend, Malachy Cavanagh, whom he stabbed after waking up in a temper. A jury cleared him of murder.

Qualcast hit

Qualcast, Britain's largest producer of lawnmowers, is putting 500 workers on a three-day week at Derby and Stowmarket, Suffolk, because orders have dropped by 20 per cent during the dry weather. The firm, said the short-term working would initially last for two months.

University ban on South African talk was unlawful

By DAVID TYTLER, EDUCATION EDITOR

A UNIVERSITY ban on speakers from the South African Embassy because the vice-chancellor was concerned about the threat of violence outside the university was wrong, the High Court ruled yesterday.

The ruling, which will affect all universities in England and Wales, came after action was brought against Professor Graeme Davies, vice-chancellor of Liverpool University, by the university's Conservative Association. It had accused Professor Davies of failing to uphold freedom of speech by imposing the ban on two meetings it had organized because he was concerned about the threat of public disorder in Toxteth.

The judges rejected the association's claim that the authorities were not entitled to lay down conditions to prevent disorder at the meetings and did not award costs to the association, estimated at

£10,000. Lord Justice Watkins and Mr Justice Potts said that, in discharging its duty under the 1986 Education (No 2) Act to preserve freedom of speech on the campus, "the university is not enjoined or entitled to take into account threats of public disorder outside the confines of the university by persons not within its control".

Mr Andrew Caesar-Gordon, chairman of the association, said he was delighted with the court's backing for freedom of speech but was happy that costs had not been awarded even though the association won the main part of its case. "It is victory at a price. Hopefully the court has handed a message to both left and right extremists that the threat of public disorder will not be sufficient grounds for trying to halt a meeting taking place on a university campus and freedom of speech will prevail."

The university had argued that it would have been "wholly irresponsible" to ignore threats of disorder outside its precincts in Toxteth, which has a large black community, over the planned visits by the South Africans in November 1988 and January last year.

Lord Justice Watkins said the university's attitude was laudable, but failed to deal properly with the issue of freedom of speech. "We accept that the university authorities acted with the best possible motives to prevent breaches of the peace which they had good reason to believe would occur on and off their premises in the event of the meetings taking place," he said. "If the university had confined the reasons to the risk of disorder on the campus and among members of the university, there could have been no objection."

The judges rejected the association's argument that conditions originally imposed on one of the meetings before it was banned would hinder free speech and were therefore unlawful. The university insisted that information about the meeting should be treated as confidential until 9am on the day it was due to take place and that only those producing a valid student or staff card would be allowed to attend. The university also reserved the right to charge the association for security costs.

Last night, a university spokesman refused to comment until the full implications of the judgement had been considered. He did not rule out an appeal.

Mr Caesar-Gordon said that he would now ask diplomats from the South African Embassy to address a meeting of the association.



Dr Margaret Rale, director of archaeology for the Mary Rose Trust, shows Mr Rodney Cobb the restoration work on the Tudor ship raised from the Solent in 1982. His firm, Olico Systems, has given the trust a computer for making three-dimensional drawings of the Mary Rose

'Cab rank' code for barristers

By FRANCES GIBB
LEGAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

THE Bar has for the first time enshrined in its code of conduct a stipulation that under the "cab rank" rule, barristers cannot refuse to take a legal aid case on the ground that the fee is inadequate.

The move aims to put pressure on the Government to ensure that solicitors are placed under a similar restraint in the Courts and Legal Services Bill. At present, the Bill allows solicitors to refuse legal aid cases if the fee is inadequate, taking account of factors such as their seniority and the complexity of the case.

Yesterday, however, although the Lord Chancellor's Department confirmed that the Government was reconsidering the wording of the "cab rank" clause, it said this was only to ensure that it took account of the Government's aims. Those aims, a spokesman said, were that "advocates cannot discriminate on the ground of the source of the financial support for a case; such as through the legal aid scheme or a trades union".

The clause, however, did not specify when and in what circumstances advocates could refuse work because of the level of funding, he added. That was an issue for the machinery to be set up under the Bill which will draw up new advocacy rules.

Breakaways escape synod action

By KERRY GILL

THE Free Presbyterian Church of Scotland yesterday decided against attempting to recover property held by the breakaway Associated Presbyterian Churches through litigation.

In a statement after the Free Presbyterian Synod in Glasgow the church said it would leave the issue of the property to the conscience of those who broke away last year to establish their own church. The Associated Presbyterian Churches were formed last summer when Lord Mackay of Clashfern, the Lord Chancellor, announced his resignation from the Free

Presbyterian Church after his suspension as an elder for attending two Roman Catholic Requiem masses.

He was excommunicated by the synod after refusing to acknowledge that he had been wrong in attending the masses. The debate over the issue led to moderate ministers and elders forming the new church.

The new church continued to practice, using the buildings and manse of the Free Presbyterian Church from which it split. There has been conjecture over the past year that the FP church would attempt to regain control of

the property by taking legal action.

However, the synod yesterday said it would take no steps to enter into any form of negotiation with the Associated Presbyterian Churches. It said members of the breakaway church had "no moral or legal right to property which they hold, and which their consciences, as yet, do not require them to vacate".

The statement added: "We leave them in the hands of the God of the whole earth who will deal with them in his own time and way." The synod agreed that having taken counsel's opinion, a court

action would have been successful. But it reserved the right to defend any claim against its property.

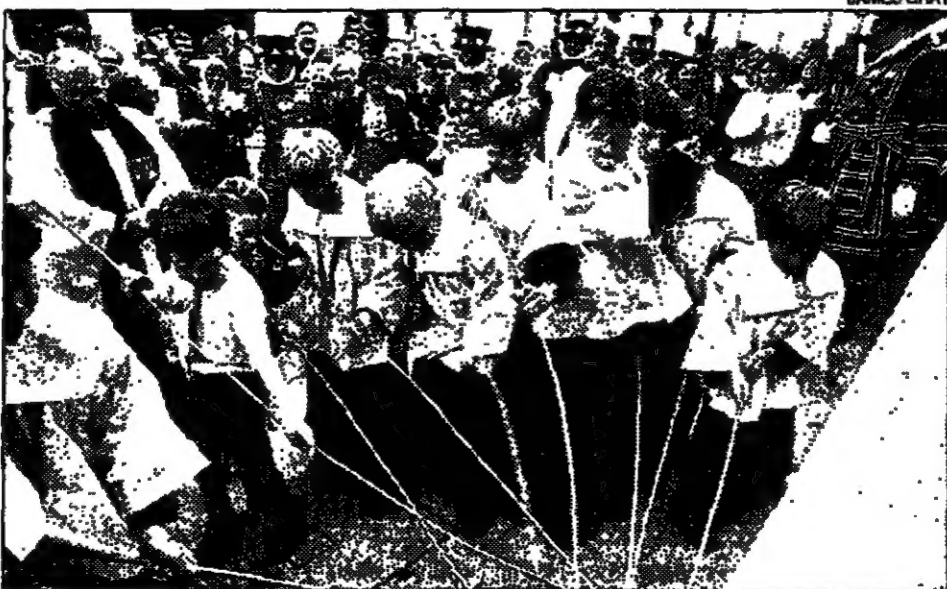
The Associated Presbyterians have no assets other than the property which they hold and the offerings of congregations. Some of the donations, however, have been substantial, with hundreds of pounds being collected in a week from single churches.

The Free Presbyterians still hold the majority of the property. Their substantial influence in Africa, for instance, was unaffected by the schism last May.

They said that, in the world of business, an employee using company house vacated it as a matter of honour when he resigned his employment. "He certainly would not wait to be evicted by a sheriff."

In effect, the ministers of the breakaway church were employees of the Free Presbyterian Church until they decided to split. "When they left the employment of the Free Presbyterian Church ordinary principles of ethics should have obliged them to vacate their manse," the statement said.

The Rev Hamish MacKinnon, a founder member of the APC who has retained his manse and church, said: "We would not have stayed in the manse if we had not been acting according to our consciences. They have no right to invoke our consciences. I am very pleased that there is no threat hanging over us as regards the property."



Boys from the Chapel Royal beating the bounds at the Tower of London. The triennial event involves beating with willow wands marker posts set at the edge of the ground over which the Tower's rights extend, thereby establishing its liberties

Poll tax clash over 'rich to poor' cash switch

By RONALD FAUX

THE Government is to monitor any attempt by Bradford Council to shift resources away from prosperous areas that have benefited under the community charge to districts with high unemployment and poverty levels.

Control of the metropolitan council, once a flagship of Thatcherism with one of the lowest poll tax levels in the country, passed to Labour in the local elections. The new group has vowed to redistribute resources with less going to postal districts that fared well under the poll tax.

Mr Michael Portillo, the minister responsible for the community charge, has, however, made it clear to opposition Tories in Bradford that the Government will step in if the Labour group discriminates harshly against the better off in Bradford.

The controversy began with a policy document from the Labour group called the Priestly Plan quoting the views of the Bradford author, J B

Priestley, on "the dark bog of greedy industrialization". The priority for the Labour group would be to target services so that people received good value from their poll tax but a much greater proportion of the council's income, the document said, was now contributed by areas that were most in need.

"It is imperative that there is a redistribution of resources to reflect the new priority of the council and counter the effects of deprivation and disadvantage. Targets will be set on the levels of redistribution required based on postal code areas," the document said. That was interpreted as making vulnerable the prosperous areas which had seen a net reduction in their contribution to council income.

Conservatives saw the document as a socialist genius freshly released from the bottle. Within days came rumours and reports that the better-off areas of Ilkley, Otley and Baildon would see

their uncollected refuse piling up in the streets and public services diminished as the city hall redirected resources away from them.

Mr Eric Pickles, Conservative group leader, described the Labour policy as "an evil departure from the tradition that local government services should be provided on the basis of need rather than political voting habits". The Conservatives were waiting to see what happened and if the council's "redistribution" of resources was not legally watertight the Government would step in.

Mr Tommy Flanagan, the new leader of Bradford Council, yesterday rejected the accusations that the council was about the embark on spiteful discrimination against districts that had voted Tory or had benefited from the city's low community charge level.

His policy, he said, would be entirely in line with that of the Government, which was to concentrate urban

programme money on areas of priority need. "Labour Party workers fear that the Conservatives, snatching after the loss of control, have been handed false information upon which many a scare story can be built. A Labour spokesman explained that the redistributed resources would include such items as the £600,000 the Tories had spent on consultancy fees and a further £600,000 on putting the refuse services out to tender."

In the so-called prosperous districts, however, Tory councillors were concerned for the future quality of council services. Miss Anne Hawkesworth, of Ilkley, an area of low unemployment with a high level of home ownership and a thriving tourist industry, said: "They have all paid their community charge, they have the equal right to equal services. Why should there be victimization against Conservative areas?" Ilkley, she added, had its problem areas, as anywhere else.

Chelsea's reputation for last day bargains fails to bloom

By RUTH GLEDHILL

THE last day of the Chelsea Flower Show failed yesterday to live up to its reputation as a place to get prize blooms at bargain prices as most exhibitors sold at retail prices or with paltry discounts. By midday, dozens of plants had been sold or reserved although show rules are that selling should not start until 5pm.

Sellers said it was the chance to score one up on the Joneses that made visitors pay for dusty, wilting plants that had stood five days in the heat when they could have had similar fresh flowers for the same price at their local garden centre.

Most exhibitors, however, said they were prepared to

give only minor discounts and still expected to make good sales. Mr Charles Coe, of Knap Hill Nursery, offered medal-winning rhododendrons at near retail prices.

He said: "We are never quite sure why people buy them here. They like to buy what they can see rather than order from a catalogue. There is a certain kudos in buying at Chelsea. They like to go back to their neighbours and say they bought a plant when they were at the show."

Pots of seedlings at the Delphinium Society stand sold fast and flowering plants went for the normal price. "Why should we sell them cheaply?" Mr Roy Latty of the society,

asked. "It is very nice to have a specimen in a pot."

Mr John Whitehead, of Colegrave Seeds, said: "People enjoy buying plants from Chelsea because they have the pleasure of talking about it to their friends and neighbours. They have seen the flowers on television and in the newspapers and now they are in their gardens."

No amount of money could persuade S&N Brackley of Buckinghamshire to sell their fading sweet peas. "These are going straight into the dustbin," a company spokesman said. "They are virtually dead. We do not expect people to buy flowers that have been here since last Saturday."

Mrs Mandela's bodyguard guilty of murdering boy

From AFP in Johannesburg

JERRY Richardson, aged 41, one of Mrs Winnie Mandela's bodyguards, was yesterday found guilty of murdering 14-year-old Stompie Seipei, a boy who had been in the dock beside Richardson, the coach of the "Mandela United Football Club", as her bodyguard. Richardson was sentenced to life imprisonment.

Never charged or called as a witness, and advised by Mr Ismail Ayob, her lawyer, to keep silent, Mrs Mandela, wife of Mr Nelson Mandela, the African National Congress's deputy president, found herself cast as an absent defendant who should have been in the dock beside Richardson, the coach of the "Mandela United Football Club", as her bodyguard. Richardson was sentenced to life imprisonment.

Mr Justice B. O'Donovan yesterday found Richardson guilty of murdering Seipei, assaulting and attempting to murder a defector from the club, and kidnapping Seipei and three other boys from a Methodist manse in December, 1988.

Richardson took Seipei and the three other boys from

the manse to Mrs Mandela's home in the Diepkloof Extension district of Soweto, Johannesburg's black township, on December 29, 1988, while Mr Mandela was still serving a life sentence.

What allegedly happened in the house made headlines. All three surviving boys told the court that Mrs Mandela punched, whipped and kicked them. Police brought to court the sjambok Mrs Mandela supposedly used. They testified that blood had been found on the walls, curtains and floor of the back room in Mrs Mandela's house where the boys had been held, and also in a minibus belonging to Mrs Mandela.

Moetsi came in for the worst of the beatings. He was accused by Richardson of betraying four ANC members who had been shot dead by police at Parys, about 60 miles south-west of here. The judge said yesterday that Mrs Mandela was present on at least one occasion when the

four boys were being assaulted.

The court was told that Richardson had stabbed Moetsi to death in Soweto on New Year's Day, 1989, returning with blood on his shoes. The boy's body was not found until January 6. Prosecutors said that on January 3 Richardson knifed Andrew Ikenang, a Mandela United defector, on open ground in the township and had left him for dead.

Richardson said he had tried to protect Mrs Mandela. He told the court that his police interrogators wanted him to implicate her. "The policeman did not like the lady, and said if I could get her into trouble, I will be okay," he said.

He claimed that the boys had come to the house of their own free will to confess to homosexual relationships with the Rev Paul Verryn, a Methodist minister.

But a defence witness contradicted his claim that Mrs Mandela was away in the Orange Free State at the time, insisting that she had seen her at the Diepkloof house on December 29 and again, this time with Moetsi, on New Year's Eve.

On May 13, during his African tour, Mr Mandela defended his wife in Lagos, the Nigerian capital, saying: "Even now, as I am talking to you, she is still being persecuted in South Africa by the Government and its agencies." Last Tuesday he told a press conference here: "When my wife is not charged, and when the whole case centres around her, she has no way of defending herself and her innocence."

"They don't want to charge her and give her the opportunity of proving she is innocent. My wife's whole reputation is being smashed without having the opportunity to reply. If she goes there as a witness, she does not have the privileges of an accused. The way the case has been conducted is intended to defame my wife without giving her an opportunity to defend herself."

China reverts to Taoist healing

From Catherine Sampson in Peking

MANY Chinese, whether rulers or ruled, are reverting to the superstition and mysticism of feudal times as the certainties of their revolution unravel about them.

In the China of the 1990s, there are newspaper reports of mystics claiming to speak in tongues or be able to wean mosquitoes on to grass. Hundreds gather in central Peking to stare at a tree that they believe can emit vital energy. Prophecies of doom and disaster alarm the people and haunt the authorities.

In Zhongnanhai, where the leaders live in seclusion, many Chinese believe there are hundreds of practitioners of an ancient Taoist form of healing, *qigong*, helping aged and ailing Marxists to achieve a long life. Even the Army encourages *qigong*, although it has never been proved to have any scientific basis.

Superstitious beliefs have never relinquished their hold on the countryside, but now they seem to be spreading to the cities. "There are people at every level of society, from the top to the bottom, who believe in this stuff," a Peking resident said. "It is not restricted to the countryside any more. It has penetrated offices and factories, and even some educated people believe it."

Since June 4 last year, students in Peking have turned away from socialism and towards various alternatives, including Buddhism and Christianity. *Qigong* is perhaps the most popular. The theory behind *qigong* is that everyone has *qi* - vital energy - but only a few people have the ability to emit it through their palms to cure others.

Dr Wan Sujian is a military mystic. In the heart of a military area close to foreigners, on the outskirts of Peking, Dr Wan heads an army *qigong* clinic. He joined the military in 1969, but then had to go into hiding in the

hills until 1983 because *qigong* and all its practitioners were under attack.

For the next three years, Dr Wan was only allowed to treat soldiers. In 1986, the clinic was opened to civilians, and the Army now makes about 200,000 yuan (£25,000) from the clinic a year. "Most of China's leaders believe in *qigong*," Dr Wan said. "I have treated the son of Deng Xiaoping (the paramount leader). But they do not like to endorse it in public because there are so many charlatans around."

In an official atheist state, Dr Wan admits he is a Taoist. So are all his young staff, who are the descendants of ancient *qigong* masters and who, on completing their training, are employed by the Army. At the clinic, patients are suspended by a harness over the Taoist yin and yang signs painted on the ground. The patient's limbs are pushed and pulled by invisible forces allegedly emanating from the palms of young *qigong* doctors.

The party's response to *qigong* is ambivalent. It cannot condemn something it is known to practise or endorse something so blatantly superstitious in nature and religious in origin. Its response to mysticism is not to argue rationally and scientifically, but to emphasize its own mystical aspects, creating new cults around old socialist heroes.

One mystic is now on the run from the police. Thousands assembled on the outskirts of Peking as he foretold a natural disaster that would kill most people in the year 1999. He promised that they would escape from certain death in return for 30 yuan each. To prove that he was patriotic, he donated half of his substantial earnings to the Asian Games fund. But the authorities decided his vision of imminent disaster was not conducive to their message of stability and unity.



Mr Steve Crabb, Conservation and Environment Minister in the Australian state of Victoria, inspecting yesterday some of 60 fairy penguins injured by an oil slick near Melbourne. About 100 birds died and other marine life was damaged. Fairies are the smallest in the penguin family and the only ones to breed in Australia

Hundreds of foreigners evacuated from Gabon

From Susan MacDonald in Paris

SEVERAL hundred foreign nationals, mainly French, were yesterday evacuated from Port Gentil, Gabon's chief port, oil centre and second city, to Libreville, the capital, and then to Paris after the second night of curfew in the country failed to keep looters, some armed with rifles stolen from police stations, off the streets.

An official newspaper reported that two people had died and 17 had been injured in this week's rioting in the former French colony in West Africa. The Gabonese authorities were yesterday expelling all foreign journalists.

In a first official French Government statement on the two days of serious unrest in the former French colony, M Jacques Pelletier, the Minister of Co-operation, said in Paris yesterday that the situation continued to be "tense and worrying".

"From the beginning of the troubles," he said, "military reinforcements were sent to the capital, Libreville. After contacting the Gabonese authorities, a substantial detachment of troops was also sent to

Port Gentil to protect our 2,500 French nationals and the international community residing there. The detachment will stay there as long as needed to assure the safety of the French."

Although he himself stopped short of calling the removal of foreigners an evacuation, M Pelletier said the French Government had taken the necessary steps to permit those French people who wished to do so to leave Port Gentil, which has been hit worst by the violence. In fact, a discreet airlift operation was put in place there yesterday, with women and children being first to leave.

Before the evacuation, many French people living in Port Gentil had already gone to the special privately guarded refuge centres set up by Elf Gabon and Shell Oil, the chief oil companies there, but Elf Aquitaine announced in Paris that it was not yet evacuating employees.

A Briton, nine French people - including the Consul-General - and a Gabonese were briefly taken hostage in Port Gentil on Thursday as

opponents to President Bongo tried to get France to put pressure on him to resign.

In an extraordinary interview published in *Le Figaro* in Paris yesterday, President Bongo affirmed, from his heavily guarded presidential palace in Libreville, that nothing was happening in Gabon and that all was calm. What ever trouble there was, he said, was due to the French Government's insistence that he abolish his one-party state and try a multi-party system.

Yesterday's edition of the official Gabonese *L'Union* newspaper, however, in reporting the deaths and injuries, said that the serious street rioting had left buildings burnt out, cars wrecked and shops looted in whole areas of Libreville and Port Gentil.

Full circle for Doe as rebels close the net

From Philip Jacobson in Monrovia

WHEN a lean young army master sergeant called Samuel Doe seized power in Liberia 10 years ago, President Tolbert was bayoneted in his bed and a dozen Cabinet ministers were executed by firing squads on the capital's main beach.

Now the self-styled "Redeemer" is contemplating an equally brutal conclusion to his own regime as guerrillas fight their way steadily closer to Monrovia.

Holed up in the heavily guarded Executive Mansion, President Doe can have no illusions about the consequences of hanging on to the bitter end. Hated and feared in equal measure by the people in whose name he launched the 1980 coup, his Government is increasingly isolated in black Africa, while his once-steadfast ally, the United States, is nervously backing away from the besieged administration.

But while tension grows in Monrovia, President Doe appears to be paralysed by indecision. One day he is threatening the rebels - led by his former comrade, Mr Charles Taylor - with annihilation and calling on civilians to take up their cutlasses in his support; on another, he talks of seeking "peace, stability and unity" and piously assures the nation that he would never allow the people to suffer needlessly.

Try telling that to the families of the 10 men abducted and butchered like cattle around the capital this week. Several of the mangled bodies dumped on a waste ground have been identified as those of soldiers from the garrison defending Monrovia.

They belonged to tribes which have suffered most since government troops were unleashed in Nimba county, where the present uprising began, and there is no shadow of doubt among ordinary Liberians that this was the work of death squads composed of men from the President's small but powerful tribe, the Krahn.

The fear these killings has engendered in the streets here is almost tangible and the tribal passions aroused so intense that it feels as if the tiniest incident could launch a bloodbath. The other day, two of the Krahn soldiers who guard the President strolled into a crowded bar in their distinctive red berets, brand-new assault rifles slung over the shoulder. All conversations halted, half the drinkers got up to leave, and the owner nervously produced the usual "complimentary" beers.

There are upwards of 800 of these special troops - believed to have been trained by an Israeli mercenary - stationed in the capital, and what they do if and when the moment comes for Mr Doe to flee in the executive jet, which is on permanent standby, is a topic of much uneasy speculation.

The Krahn's home ground in the south-east has been cut off by the rebel advance, and the unconfirmed reports that

soldiers from the tribe were singled out for summary executions after the fall of Buchanan last weekend must have removed all thoughts of eventual surrender.

In the virtual absence of any official information - it took five months for the Government to acknowledge that a single town had been lost - worried Liberians spend half the day gossiping about what comes next.

The grapevine says that Mr Doe already has a handsome retirement fund safely out of the country and could be persuaded to leave in the right circumstances: it seems that the former sergeant, who soon promoted himself to general, is touchy about his military honour and wishes to avoid the impression of slinking from the battlefield.

Go or stay, the legacy of the Redeemer's decade is a country on its knees. Having promised an end to the "suffering, oppression and exploitation" of the poor, his regime has run Liberia into the ground. By some estimates, there is no more than \$5 million (£3 million) in the Government's coffers, against international debts of about \$700 million.

So what has happened to the \$500 million in US aid that Mr Doe received, the largest sum per capita in all of sub-Saharan Africa? Wasted, stolen, invested in equipping an Army that fell apart as soon as it came into contact with Mr Taylor's guerrillas. It is little wonder that Washington now gives the impression of preferring to draw a veil over the life and times of the leader it once funded so generously, the man whom President Reagan once received with acclaim as a democrat on the lawn of the White House.

After that bloody day on the beach, young Sergeant Doe had spoken with evident feeling about restoring the dignity and the "civil, human and international rights" of the Liberian people. Ten years on, his regime is harshly and universally condemned by foreign human rights organizations, while some 200,000 refugees have fled into neighbouring countries out of fear of his troops.

Perhaps this is the moment for Mr Doe, pondering his options, to recall Thomas Quinlan, his former comrade-in-arms who went into exile when they fell out, warning that Liberia's new ruler had no intention of restoring democracy. After the rigged elections in 1985, at which Mr Doe was formally appointed President, he returned to stage a coup that followed: Quinlan was captured, tortured and backed to pieces.

If Mr Doe decides to leave, with whatever guarantees, he would not simply be saving his own skin but finally delivering Liberians, as he once promised, from their suffering under a repressive regime.

Thai loggers 'rape' Burma teak forest

From James Pringle in Wa Lae, Thai-Burmese border

FOR two miles along the Thai-Burmese border they lie like fallen guardians - tens of thousands of hardwood logs bearing a code number and stamped "Burma teak".

Standing on a short bridge, also made of teak, linking Thailand and Burma at the frontier crossing point here, one can watch the huge trucks rolling into Thailand, each with its cargo of logs. The largest intact tropical forest in mainland Asia is just dribbling away.

One foreign relief agency official, who is familiar with the frontier area here, says an "ecological catastrophe" is happening in Burma. "The Burmese military regime is allowing the Thais to rape one of the finest remaining teak forests in the world," he said.

The rape of the forest will also, doubtless, help finance tomorrow's National Assembly elections. Yesterday the Government promised an honest count. "We have arranged for voters to cast their secret ballots so as to be free and fair in every possible way," the Election Commission's secretary, U Aye Maung, told a news conference in the capital.

"Votes will be counted in the booth to rid the voters of the doubt, in the presence of the polling booth team, candidates and the public," he added. The results will be announced the same night.

The Burmese Government also eased its ban on foreign

observers by granting 61 foreign journalists last-minute visas and lifted martial law in 16 townships.

After the ruthless suppression of the pro-democracy movement in Rangoon in September, 1988, the Burmese State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC) of General Saw Maung was short of cash to pursue the war against ethnic minorities like the Karen. The state was down to its last \$10 million (£6 million) in foreign reserves.

Now it is relatively flush with funds, and has been buying new weapons, thanks to \$1 billion (£600 million) in foreign investments last year. After the killings of pro-democracy students, Western governments had cut off aid and were discouraging investment. But then General Chaovalit Yongchaiyuth, the Thai Army commander who is now Deputy Prime Minister, visited Burma and returned with generous logging, gem and fishing deals. A total of 40 logging concessions gave Thailand access to one of the world's last great teak forests.

Thailand's own forest cover had been depleted from over 50 per cent in the early 1960s to 18 per cent now. After floods, which were blamed on deforested hills, killed 351 people in southern Thailand in 1988, the Thai Government banned logging.

The Burma deal came just at the right time to keep Thailand's sawmills going.



A Burmese displaying a poster of the opposition Democracy and Peace Party in the town of Myawadi

Karen leaders claim that part of the deal involved Thailand assisting Burma to clear out minority ethnic groups, like themselves and the Mon, along the border. These groups have financed their armed struggle against the Burmese regime by small-scale logging. Curbing the

insurgents would enable Thai companies, some allegedly linked to senior Thai military officers, to cut the trees unhindered by middlemen.

Foreign relief agency officials say the Thai companies are now logging the timber wealth as fast as they can. A visit here confirms this. Karen

leaders and Burmese students, who fled Rangoon after the military crackdown and are living along the border, claim that the Thai military has turned a blind eye to Burmese troops crossing into Thai territory to attack their camps. In recent months the Karen have lost seven of their nine strongholds, and the students their two main bases.

Wa Lae, which was the main Karen trading post, was captured last January, sending 2,800 Karen into Thailand where they are now housed in a makeshift camp.

"The only people who can cross the border here are those who have timber concessions," a Burmese officer said as a Thai pick-up truck loaded with Thai lumberjacks crossed into Burma. It bore the words: "Zilar International Trading Company - Zico".

These workers, like the thousands of other Thai loggers who labour inside Burma, wear a small laminated badge which is equivalent to a passport.

The Burmese officer, a major from a regiment near Mandalay, is commander of the Burmese village of Wa Lae or what is left of it. The blackened stumps of the Karen's homes are all that is left.

Karen leaders claim that "the Thai logging companies are cutting indiscriminately because they do not care for the future. One year of their cutting is equal to 10 years of ours, and they do not replant the teak as we did".

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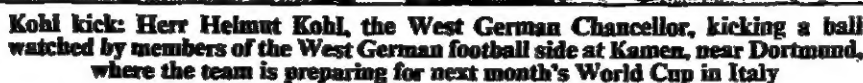
THIS ANNOUNCEMENT HAS THE ENDORSEMENT OF CRYSTAL CATHEDRAL MINISTRIES, USA, AND GOSPELRADIO, USSR STATE COMMITTEE FOR RADIO AND TELEVISION.

FROM A CORRESPONDENT IN JERUSALEM

He also urged the UN Secretary-General, Señor Javier Pérez de Cuéllar, to

A curfew remained in force throughout the Gaza Strip yesterday, confining more than 700,000 Palestinians to their homes. In the West Bank, military road blocks prevented Palestinians from travelling to Jerusalem. The

Mr Arafat's call for a UN observer team has been endorsed by about three dozen Palestinian leaders who have been on a hunger strike in Jerusalem since last Sunday's massacre. Yesterday nine Palestinians launched a second hunger strike in the Gaza Strip, saying they wanted the UN Secretary-General to tour the region to see the circumstances under which they are suffering.



FROM IAN MURRAY IN BONN

The signs are that, despite Herr Kohl's support for atomic weapons, the West German Government is manoeuvring to have them withdrawn from German soil. The Chancellor's real worry yesterday was that the conventional arms negotiations in Vienna were being bogged down by the Soviet Union.

The United States has made it plain that it will not take part in a summit of the 35 member nations of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe this autumn unless there is an agreement in Vienna. Since the main purpose of the summit is to recognize a united Germany, early

The West German assessment is that President Gorbachev's greatest strength at the summit is, paradoxically, his domestic weakness and that he will need concessions to bolster his position. The view is that a "Gorbachov aid package" can be put together which need include no more than has already been conceded. It comprises the agreement not to modernize short-range nuclear weapons, the decision to remove all chemical weapons from West Germany, and the promise of economic and technical aid from the West.

FROM IAN MURRAY IN BOND

From winning more than 7 per cent of the vote to take six seats in the European Parliament just over a year ago, the party has seen its key policies virtually taken over by the main parties or overtaken by events. This is because Herr Schonhuber was always careful to sound reasonable and to appeal to the German patriotic rather than to extreme neo-Nazi support. The Republicans were thus officially described as "radical" by counter-intelligence, who did not maintain surveillance on them in the same way as on the Communists or illegal fascist organizations.

Now that the election results are proving disappointing, the more extremist members are seeking to exploit the resentment against foreigners and East German settlers, particularly in areas with poor housing and high unemployment. Like Herr Schönhuber, they also argue that the Government must not be allowed to "surrender" inside the present Polish borders, but unlike him they hint darkly at being ready to fight to keep it.

**Solidarity
faces tough
test of i
populari**

Family Outing

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Cash Price†	7,990.00	7,990.00	7,990.00
Deposit	20% 1,598.00	20% 1,598.00	20% 1,598.00
Balance Financed	6,392.00	6,392.00	6,392.00
Interest	0	1,246.48	1,917.76
APR %	0%	12.6%	14.4%
Balance to Pay	6,392.00	7,638.48	8,309.76
Equal Monthly Instalments	(24) 266.33	(36) 212.18	(48) 173.12
Total Credit Price	7,990.00	9,236.48	9,907.76
SAVING versus Fiat Finance Typical Rate (2% APR)*	1,356.96	821.52	898.56

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Romania waits for lurid details of Ceausescu lifestyle

From CHRISTOPHER WALKER
BUCHAREST

THE trial of Mr Nicu Ceausescu, the former Romanian Minister of Youth, notorious drunkard, womanizer and petty tyrant, opens today in the picturesque Transylvanian town of Sibiu which was his personal fiefdom during the three years that he was chief of the Communist Party organization there.

The Romanian public, which has been saturated with lurid tales of the decadence of the Ceausescus' youngest and favoured son since the December revolution, is keenly awaiting the proceedings in the hope that they will confirm tales of a lifestyle which vied with that of some of the most dissolute Roman emperors.

Since Mr Ceausescu, aged 39, was arrested on December 22 while trying to escape with one of his many lovers, the Romanian media have been filled with stories of how he flaunted the power bestowed on him by his parents who expected that he would eventually become the leader of Romania.

Both Nicolae and Elena Ceausescu

ignored reports circulating in their lifetime about how their son drank whisky straight from the bottle, picked fights with the husbands of women he seduced, and held orgies in the various family mansions. He was also reputed to have gambled away a whole stable of Arab thoroughbreds.

In the absence of his father and mother, both executed on December 25, Mr Nicu Ceausescu has become the figure on which the hatred and resentment for the way in which the family flaunted its position has been focused. One attempt has already been made to kill him, but he has recovered after surgery from the stab wound.

According to government sources, the younger Ceausescu, always referred to as "the Prince" and known for his trademark, a Rolex gold watch, in a country where watches of any kind were hard to come by, has remained unrepentant. During his five months in jail he has become the self-appointed leader of all the prisoners.

"It would seem that the man has no shame. He feels that he really did

nothing wrong and has so far shown no inclination to express any remorse," one well-placed Romanian official said. "But his way of life has left its mark on his health, and there was a suspicion that he might be suffering from liver cancer."

Under the indictment delivered by the Military Tribunal, Mr Ceausescu is to be tried on genocide charges which carry a maximum sentence of life imprisonment. These relate specifically to accusations that he ordered troops to open fire on peaceful demonstrators in Sibiu, killing 89 people and wounding a further 219. He is also being tried on lesser firearms charges.

The trial, originally scheduled to take place in early January has been postponed many times. No official reason has been given, but legal sources maintained that the authorities were attempting to persuade him to reveal the whereabouts of some \$400 million the Ceausescus are believed to have stashed away in secret Swiss bank accounts.

There has also been concern among the ruling National Salvation Front, whose candidate for President, Mr Ion

Ilescu, was confirmed in office yesterday, to make the proceedings legal, fair and above board.

The Government is acutely aware of the severe damage done to Romania's post-revolutionary image by the summary trial and execution of the dictator and his wife.

Another government official explained: "We are determined to make this trial as proper as we can in the difficult circumstances. I do not expect it to dwell on Nicu's decadent life, although that is what most Romanians would love to hear about."

Among the mass of post-revolutionary rumour, one story about Mr Ceausescu that has been well authenticated was his sexual domination of Miss Nadia Comaneci, the former Romanian gymnast who captivated the world when she won three gold medals at the 1976 Montreal Olympics.

Her mother recently told a Western news agency that Mr Ceausescu, who was divorced from his wife, had dominated her daughter "body and soul" and that during one visit to his home, Nadia

had one of her fingernails pulled out for refusing to comply with his sexual demands.

Many other stories of his extraordinary decadence are chronicled in *Red Horizons*, the memoirs of Mr Ion Pacepa, the former head of the Romanian foreign intelligence service who defected to the United States.

Mr Pacepa relates endless stories of his heavy drinking and his exploitation of his role as the pampered son of the Ceausescus who refused to believe that he had any faults. The most notorious occasion, now retold in loving detail by Romanians who have been able to read the book in translation for the first time, concerns a fabulously drunken dinner given by the then Foreign Minister, Mr Stefan Andrei.

"A waiter came in with a silver platter full of oysters," Mr Pacepa recalled. "Put it here in the middle," ordered Nicu, pointing towards the table. "Is there any seasoning on them?"

"They are just fresh and raw, Comrade Nicu," replied the waiter. "They need seasoning, you idiot. This is not a

cathouse, it is a VIP club." He precariously climbed up on to the table and started urinating on them, careful to "season" every oyster. "Come on comrades, let's have an oyster," he urged his guests while unsuccessfully trying to pick up an oyster for himself.

"It took Andrei and Pacepa (the Deputy Foreign Minister) some time to get Nicu back on to a chair. 'Nobody's eating? Who does not like my seasoning? Then I will wash them off.' And Nicu started squirting a syphon bottle over the oysters and over the rest of us sitting at the table."

Although Nicu's sadistic whims and playboy lifestyle came to symbolize the moral bankruptcy of the Ceausescu regime, he is still remembered with a certain affection in Sibiu, a town which he ensured was plentifully supplied with all the basic goods unavailable in most other parts of the country.

A local journalist, Mr Liviu Tipurita, said: "He was not very hated in Sibiu until the revolution, but the killings shattered the positive image he cultivated."

Solidarity faces tough test of its popularity

From ROGER BOYES IN WARSAW

WRESTLING with a volatile rail strike, the Solidarity-led Government tomorrow faces an important test of its popularity and authority in local council elections, the first truly free poll in Poland for more than 50 years.

The last few days of the election campaign have been dominated by the strike of railway workers, the first big challenge to the Government since it came to power in September. Negotiations with the strikers have broken down. The railway workers, who want big wage increases and a purge of the railway hierarchy, met in Slupsk yesterday to decide whether to stage a nationwide protest.

Electric trains, the usual commuter transport for shipyard workers, were at a standstill in Gdansk, and Gdynia, the port of Szczecin, was completely cut off. Fuel supplies are piling up in the Baltic ports unable to reach factories.

Mr Alfred Miodowicz, of the former OPZZ communist union movement, who is representing the strikers, declared yesterday: "We do not want to overthrow the whole Government - but a few ministers will have to go."

The rail strike is turning tomorrow's local council elec-

tions into something of a national referendum: are you in favour of the Government's sharp-shock market reforms, or not? The belated support of Mr Lech Walesa, the Solidarity leader, for the Government, and his refusal to represent the strikers, makes the issue clear.

Many Poles will vote for the so-called citizens' committees - a political vehicle for Solidarity, though they contain the seeds of many parties - to show their contempt for the railway strike. Mr Henryk Wujec, one of the chief organizers of the citizens' committees, says that the cumulative Solidarity vote on Sunday, taking into account candidates from the citizens' committees, union-sponsored councillors and Farmers' Solidarity, should be more than 50 per cent.

Local council elections never add up to a completely reliable measure of national government. Extreme right-wing parties will be contesting the local elections; communists are for the most part not standing as communists, or even Social Democrats, but as independents. Up to 44 per cent of candidates consider themselves independent.

Opinion polls show that more than 40 per cent of young voters want to vote for ecologists; the result is that many ex-communists have turned from red to green in the past few weeks.

Many of the smaller parties are forming coalitions, largely to save money. The new democracy is proving to be a costly business. Solidarity has the biggest fund-raising capacity, but even it is having problems. Mr Wujec says he has been able to collect \$50,000 (\$29,500) from Polish businessmen in the United States and Canada. That amounts to a mere \$1,000 for every province.

Mr Krzysztof Krol, of the right-wing Confederation for Independent Poland, believes that party funding is pivotal to the East European democratic revolution. "In last year's parliamentary elections, Solidarity was able to spend about \$600 a candidate, whereas we had only \$8 - now the gap is narrowing but there is still not enough."

Britain is allocating £20,000 for the future local governments in Poland, but the campaign costs are mainly borne by individual candidates.

Trial puts CIA on the spot

New York - The US Government may be forced to reveal how much the CIA paid General Manuel Noriega, the ousted Panamanian leader (James Bone writes). His lawyers had threatened to withdraw from the case unless part of his assets were unfrozen to pay their fees.

The lawyers argued that since he received funds from American intelligence while he was in power, not all his assets were tainted by the drug conspiracy charges he faces.

Shark victim
Mayport, Florida - A pair of feet found in the belly of a shark have been tentatively identified from the sneakers as those of Thomas Caron, who has been missing since his boat capsized during a fishing trip last month. (AP)

Peak conquered
Kathmandu - Mr Mark Udall, a member of an American expedition, has conquered the 28,169ft Kangchenjunga, the world's third highest mountain, the Nepalese Tourism Ministry said. (AFP)

Guards killed
Baghdad - An Iranian Kurdish group says its guerrillas killed 15 Iranian Revolutionary Guards in an ambush and attacked the University of Orumiyeh. (AP)

Killer to hang
Tunis - Nacer Damergi, aged 50, a sex killer dubbed the "Nabul strangler" has been sentenced to hang for murdering 12 people aged between seven and 20. (Reuters)

Arson feared
Norripping - Swedish police suspect arsonists caused a fire that destroyed immigrant housing in the town of Kinstad. (Reuters)

Family outing
Harare - When Mr Thuma Nzumakasa, aged 68, wanted to take his children to town to get birth certificates, a coach had to be hired for the occasion. He has 136 offspring and 24 wives. (AFP)



The Princess Royal sightseeing with a Soviet official in Red Square yesterday

Yeltsin upstages Princess

From RICHARD OWEN IN MOSCOW

IT WAS almost certainly unintentional, given the admiration that Mr Boris Yeltsin has for the West and his disapproval of the murder of Russia's own royal family by the Bolsheviks.

But yesterday the blimp and unorthodox politician took centre stage in Moscow by seeking the presidency of the Russian Federation in a clear challenge to President Gorbachev, and in so doing managed to upset the programme for the current visit to the Soviet capital by the Princess Royal, disrupting her planned tour of the former private apartments of the Russian tsar inside the Kremlin.

The Princess appeared puzzled rather than put out as her official motorcade, after entering the Kremlin gates, suddenly veered off towards the armoury instead of heading for the Terem Palace, which

houses the former Russian royal apartments. Embarrassed Soviet officials explained that the palace had been suddenly, if temporarily, occupied by teams of secretaries clearing the mound of paperwork involved in the current session of the congress of the Russian Federation, where Mr Yeltsin has been staging his political comeback.

"Everything was turned upside down," complained Colonel Peter Gibbs, the Princess's private secretary. He said it had been understood earlier that the tsar's apartments were to be on the itinerary.

Both the British Embassy and the Soviet authorities said it had been clear all along that the Princess Royal's visit was "subject to change in view of the situation" and might have to be "re-jigged".

Apparently unaffected by

the sudden change in schedule, the Princess joined American tourists marvelling at the gold and silver collection in the recently restored armoury. She chatted with an American from Nashville, remarking that she had ridden there several times.

Chief among the objects on display at the armoury was a priceless Fabergé egg decorated - appropriately enough - in the circumstances - with miniatures of the last Tsar's children.

Afterwards the Princess laid a wreath of British Legion poppies by the eternal flame at the Kremlin wall, which commemorates the Soviet Union's war dead.

She also went on an unscheduled walkabout in Red Square, met leaders of the Russian Orthodox Church, and addressed students at Moscow University.

Ryzhkov tries to calm alarm on price rises

From MARY DEJEVSKY IN MOSCOW

MR NIKOLAI Ryzhkov, the Soviet Prime Minister, yesterday called for calm and restraint as reports of panic-buying and protest demonstrations against planned price rises came in from all over the country. Speaking at a hastily organized press conference, Mr Ryzhkov staunchly defended his economic reform programme as essential to pull the Soviet Union out of its economic crisis and said he had no intention of resigning.

Demands for his resignation and for a vote of no confidence in the Government had come from radical opposition deputies in parliament after the presentation of the Government's programme to parliament on Thursday. Other deputies, however, had criticized the programme for going too far too fast, saying that the Soviet public was not ready for a market economy, or for the price rises that would accompany it.

Mr Ryzhkov said it was up to the Soviet parliament - the Supreme Soviet - to decide whether there should be a formal referendum on the measures, which include hefty price rises on most staple goods, but he gave an assurance that everyone would be given an opportunity to express their views. He said he had not mentioned the possibility of a referendum because there was no constitutional provision for such a form of consultation, although a law is in the drafting stage.

The Prime Minister denied that his programme, designed to transfer the Soviet economy to market principles over five years, was completely new. He insisted that it was simply a development of the Government's economic recovery programme which was approved by the full Soviet Congress of People's Deputies in December.

That programme was subsequently criticized for its caution and the Government was instructed by President Gorbachev in March to defend the trebling of bread and flour prices from July 1. Mr Ryzhkov said that if the country's grain problem could be solved, "we would have solved half the food problem". He asked rhetorically: "Why give money to Canadian and American peasants when we could give it to our own?"

Soviet grain purchases are expected to be high on President Gorbachev's agenda for his visit to Canada next week and to the US in June.

In Moscow, Mr Gavril Popov, the newly elected mayor, was quoted as saying that the city council had not been informed of the pro-

posed price rises in advance and had been placed in an impossible position. The council is expected to announce that most food and consumer goods would be sold only to people with Moscow residence permits, with immediate effect, in an attempt to stem panic-buying. Although Leningrad and some other Soviet cities already have a purchase-by-passport system, Moscow has stated its opposition to such measures on the grounds that they only fuel black-marketeering.

A 3,000-strong demonstration on Thursday in one suburb of the capital sent a petition to the Russian Federation's congress, accusing Mr Ryzhkov and his Government of "lacking competence and simple logic", and demanding that all officials be put on salaries of 70 roubles (£70) a month, with a 35 rouble increment for price rises.

Speaking of the opposition to the Government's programme, Mr Ryzhkov disclosed that one of President Gorbachev's chief economic advisers, Dr Nikolai Petrakov, had declined an invitation to chair the Government's commission on prices earlier this year. Mr Ryzhkov said that at that time, Dr Petrakov had dissociated himself from price regulation, but had now come out in favour of centrally controlled prices.

Mr Ryzhkov quoted the example of Dr Petrakov as evidence that even economic experts were not consistent in their solutions to rescue the Soviet economy, but his remarks also appeared to confirm reports of disagreement between Mr Ryzhkov and President Gorbachev on how the transition to a market economy should be tackled.

Lithuania cuts fuel supplies

From ANATOL LEVEN IN TALLINN

WITH discussions between the Kremlin and the Government of Lithuania once again at a standstill, the economic sanctions against the country are beginning to bite deeply. The Government yesterday ordered the legal issue of petrol to be restricted to food-transport and emergency services, and ended the supply of hot water for domestic and industrial use.

The Government estimates that up to 100,000 people, of a total population of only 3.7

million, will be out of work from Monday. For the moment the unemployed will be sent on paid holidays or given two-thirds of their salaries by their factories. But some managers have said that, irrespective of the rules, they can keep up such payments for only a few weeks.

Supporting so many unemployed from the state budget and private donations seems next to impossible. What is left, therefore, is the possibility of foreign assistance.

The steep rise in unemployment is above all caused by the exhaustion of petrol for transport and of fuel stocks for heating water, which means that most industries relying on steam for their production are being forced to close.

Among those hit is the food processing industry. At present, however, Vilnius is still much better provided with food than most Soviet cities, and only imported items like sugar and cooking oil are in seriously short supply. Most ordinary people do not believe hunger is an actual threat.

Despite the crisis, Lithuania still seems determined not to suspend its declaration of independence, as President Gorbachev has again demanded. Lithuania's leaders met yesterday to discuss the economic situation, but apparently did not discuss the Soviet leader's statement that independence could take place within two or three years if they followed Soviet procedures.

Mr Vytautas Antanaitis, one of the Lithuanian representatives who met Mr Gorbachev in Moscow on Thursday, has said that he had accompanied his offer with a warning that he might impose presidential rule if the declaration was not suspended.

NEW YORK NOTEBOOK by James Bone

Aids show pits the artist against family values

New York has the distinction of being not only the art capital of the world, but also - according to one recent report - the city worst afflicted with Aids. So it is not surprising that anger about the disease is increasingly finding its way into art. It is a volatile mix. The latest episode pits the artist David Wojnarowicz, who has the Aids virus, against the conservative American Family Association.

Wojnarowicz, who leapt to prominence last year when he wrote a scorching introduction to a government-subsidized show on Aids, has sued the Mississippi-based pressure group for defaming him as "a mere pornographer and not a serious visual artist". He is seeking \$5 million (£3 million), alleging that the association copied his work without authorization and then sent 14 "severely cropped" images to church leaders, businessmen and politicians.

The 178,000-piece mass mailing described his work as "extremely offensive". The association was

protesting against a \$15,000 government grant for the catalogue of Wojnarowicz's last exhibition - held in Normal, Illinois.

Look closer at any shrub in a public place in New York and you will quite probably find it is wearing a small padlock and chain. A wave of plant thefts has forced landscape gardeners to consult locksmiths and security guards. On the plush Upper East Side, landscapers are chaining off trees to underground breeze blocks and devices called duck-billed anchors. In Sheridan Square in Greenwich Village, the Scotch broom shrub is secured with steel links.

The saddest tale comes from Mrs Patricia Buckley, wife of the writer William F. Buckley. The couple fought a losing battle to keep a pair of small fir trees outside their front door off Park Avenue. They put the trees in large stone Grecian urns, but thieves just stole them. After losing two sets of two, they tried cementing the urns to the

pavement. The thieves sawed them off at the base. Next, the Buckleys switched to square wooden tubs, cemented in place; the thieves dug up the trees. "Now I think I have beaten them," says Mrs Buckley. "I found some trees that nobody would want to steal. They're terribly dreadful things surrounded by rather dracul-looking ivy, but at least they're mine."

The French may have their Académie Française to oversee the progress of the language. New Yorkers have the high schools of Brooklyn and the Bronx. Mr Peter Commanday, a former teacher, has updated the lexicon with a primer of 221 of the latest expressions of street slang. A girl is a "zimmer", a good-looking girl a "flywoman" and an ugly girl, mysteriously, a "crock dog".

A tough guy is labelled a "hard rock case", a friend is known as a "homeboy" and a pervert a "lemon drop". The relatively old-fashioned refrain "no problem" is replaced by "ain't no thang".

"Cool" becomes "def", an abbreviation of "definitely". Inevitably, the youngsters' language is most creative when it comes to the rapidly changing culture of drugs. To "beam up" has less to do with the Starship Enterprise than getting high on crack cocaine.

Mr Commanday, aged 57, claims to have broken up 1,000 fights and confiscated 400 weapons during his 15 years of service, but says: "The human tongue is the most volatile, dangerous weapon brought into a school building."

Begging is now officially banned on New York subways after a recent court ruling that it did not qualify as constitutionally protected free speech, but rather amounted to near-assault. The city's homeless can still make their nickels and dimes below ground, however, by hawking the newspaper *Street News*. Set up eight months ago, the tabloid weekly describes itself as "America's motivational non-profit newspaper".

The down-and-outs pay 30 cents

for each copy and keep the difference between that and the cover price of 75 cents. Its launch was greeted with enthusiasm as celebrities and philanthropists fell over each other to get involved. Circulation has soared to 150,000. Yet the publication is now in trouble. Two of the five board members have resigned and eight salaried staff have walked out, protesting about the "erratic and irresponsible" behaviour of Hutchinson Persons, the 34-year-old rock musician from Ohio who founded the paper.

Mr Marrack Goulding, the British head of the UN peacekeeping forces, cut short his visit to the Persian Gulf last week to attend to the problems in Nicaragua, where the UN is afraid it will be sucked into a renewed civil war because of the Contras' reluctance to demobilize. UN peacekeepers are on the scene to receive the Contras' arms. Wags at headquarters here describe them as "contra-captives."

Not just black and white

Clifford Longley

Nothing will more undermine the efforts to make Britain a racially fair society than confusion between race, culture and religion. The two false categories responsible for the confusion are "ethnic" and "black", both American imports which do not work here. In Britain, the principal element in the definition of ethnicity is race — meaning in this context "non-white" — but language, country of national origin, social custom and religious belief are also embraced by the word.

In response to the influx of people from the West Indies and the Indian sub-continent it was deemed necessary in the 1970s to make it unlawful to stir up animosity against them, or to treat them individually less fairly than the indigenous white population. The focus was unmistakably on skin-colour; the moral argument was that it was outrageous to relegate a group of people to second-class status because of mere pigmentation.

In its American context, ethnicity refers not mainly to skin-colour, but to all the characteristics of the many cultural groups. Most of the American ethnic minorities are white Europeans; here, ethnicity is a euphemism for colour. But as talk of "ethnicity" has replaced talk about "race" the outlawing of racial discrimination has gradually been extended to all ethnic discrimination.

This change of terms was originally intended to prevent circumvention of the discrimination laws by reference to related non-racial characteristics. The unintended consequence was to make it unlawful to say "urban-wearers need not apply"; but this ignored the fact that turbans are worn for religious, not racial, reasons.

Those communities which derive from the Indian sub-continent define themselves under many headings. Religion would be one of the first, skin-colour one of the last. But discrimination strictly on the grounds of religion or culture is not illegal. So to avail themselves of anti-discrimination legislation, these groups had to make use of the law's definition of them according to skin-colour.

The gradual substitution of ethnicity for race brought within the anti-discrimination laws matters which were much more important to them than skin-colour. In the process, however, the moral basis of the anti-discrimination legislation has been undermined.

All reasonable people accept that skin-colour is an accidental characteristic which ought not to be the basis for important decisions affecting individuals. But the other components in the ethnic package — language in particular — might well be proper grounds for discrimination, for they are similar to the reasons for choices ordinary people make

every day, with no racial motivation. Members of ethnic minorities certainly think so themselves. It is perverse to treat such discrimination as morally or legally equivalent to colour discrimination, or to argue that anyone exercising a cultural preference is individually racist, or that society is thereby structurally racist.

The decent instincts of ordinary people are by no means the same as the judgements drawn from some tendentious ideological analyses of race relations. The analysis have devised a primary sociological determinant called "black" and invested it with elements of Marxist class-struggle. And although it has wide currency among non-Marxists, the concept is inexplicable without the ideological context, and probably in itself racist. Regarding as "black" someone with only one grandparent of African origin, for instance, is dangerously evocative of South African or Nazi doctrines of racial purity. Recruiting such people as automatic *ex officio* members of the struggling proletariat may be less offensive, but is no less questionable.

Such classifications are dangerous whether they judge white or black to be beautiful. There can be no surprise if this ideological treatment of race relations finds deep structural white racism everywhere. Race is crucial, says the theory; everyone is a racist.

Since this is a Marxist analysis, it does not consider religion at all. Only recently — and thanks largely, though unintentionally, to Salman Rushdie — have people recognized the absurdity of treating British Muslims as if their primary characteristic were the similarity of their skin-colour to that of West Indians (a similarity apparent only to those with white skins), when British Muslims themselves insist that their determining characteristic is their faith. More and more Asians, Muslims and others, now reject the term "black".

"Black" was a white label, adopted by the people to whom it was applied. They did not realize its dangers, probably because the people applying the label seemed to be on their side. In the peculiar American context in which the concept first arose, pride in blackness was devised as an antidote to shame about blackness; but both attitudes assumed that skin-colour was the one crucial element of personal identity. So the American race relations problem was defined in a way which was inherently insoluble, and which made all attempted solutions likely to exacerbate it.

Fortunately this is a mistake Britain can now avoid, for the conflict between Rushdie and the Muslim community has come just in time to explode the myths of British race relations ideology.

...and moreover

MATTHEW PARRIS

"I was 67 and I just went into the kitchen to fix myself a coffee," an old lady is said to have remarked, "I come out and I'm 82. Where did it all go?"

Someone has pressed the Divine "fast forward" button. Somewhere above, an invisible hand is winding events on, faster and faster until, to the cackle of demonic laughter, we shall all fall flat on our faces.

As the Commons reached its short Spring recess, gasping, on Thursday, MPs and journalists reeled across New Palace Yard towards the gates. Through our minds span the parliamentary circuses of the last few days: the Badgers Bill, Ravenscraig, the Agriculture Minister's daughter's hamburger, the Labour Party's new policy document, Edwina Currie's return from Bucharest... it is all happening at once. The sublime, the ridiculous — jumbled, shuffled and speeded up.

Already, there is too much. Romania, Czechoslovakia — hey, what happened to Yugoslavia? — Estonia, Latvia... What's that you say — Pakistan back in the Commonwealth? When? I missed that. Somebody keeps moving the furniture around and I can't remember where I put my drink.

Reactor rods emit radioactivity in a field around them with a force which dwindles over time. We measure "half-life": the time it takes before their potency is half its initial level. Do not events, too, exert a force-field? At first their influence is strong, their reputation flares. Gradually it fades.

But time is not the only factor. Rival events dull each other's shine, too. The next big story drags attention away from the last. The faster things happen, the less time we allow each on centre stage.

There seemed to be an era when big shocks were helpfully spaced out. When they did occur they retained potency. Suez, Hungary, the Berlin blockade... these things cast strong shadows far out over the Cold War years. The Vietnam war, the Algerian war, Mau Mau and Eoka in Cyprus — they seemed permanent. Shockwaves from the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan reverberated for years. Each of these events (it

seemed) had a half-life which was very substantial. They continued "making" history long after they were over. Even the Harold Wilson-Ian Smith talks on board HMS Tiger dominated headlines for weeks, while Rhodesia's UDI remained a major issue for a decade.

Politicians, they say, now stagger from crisis to crisis. But the crises have lost their power to bite. Their half-life has shrunk. I lose count of the things that were going to be the last nail in Mrs Thatcher's coffin: the Libyan bombing, her go-it-alone on Europe, "top people's pay awards", bus deregulation, Mark Thatcher and Ceneration, the privatization of water... Where are they now? I cannot even remember the order in which they came.

If we placed news stories, like pop records, on a weekly hit-parade of topicality — the charts from the 1950s to the 1970s were slow-moving. "Evergreens" lasted for years, and even the stories of the moment stayed in the charts for months. But now nothing tops the parade longer than a week.

Abroad, it started with glasnost, the overthrow of Ceausescu; the breaching of the Berlin Wall; Poland; Germany... and there you go again, spinning faster and faster... What's that you say? Namibia? Remind me, what is Namibia? And Listeria — where was that again? Remind me, too, what did happen to the story about Lithuania in chickens? Perhaps Mrs Currie has found the answer in Romania.

As New Wave hit music, so, in domestic "news", punk rules. The greenhouse heats us, prisoners' lynch sex offenders, mad cow's titter, and crack spreads. Journalists everywhere are rapping and voguing like things possessed. It is the news-equivalent of sensory overload.

And I weary. Play me, please, just one more time, the golden oldie I once knew by heart: Harry Truman and his orchestra — they had tunes you could remember; Nikita K and the KGB boys — that was a rhythm you could hold on to; Jack Kennedy and his Cuban missile strings — it rhymed, the words made sense; or the big band sound of Yalta. Now there was something you could whistle.

Mary Ann Sieghart finds little comfort for the Conservatives in the latest opinion polls

Bootle, sign of Labour's solid lead

This week's by-election in Bootle had none of the glamour of its Mid-Staffordshire predecessor. Neither TV cameras nor cabinet ministers designed to descend on the constituency in any numbers, as the outcome was so predictable. But the shares of the vote won by the big parties show that Labour is still respectably, if not spectacularly, beating the Tories.

For Labour to squeeze a 9.75 per cent swing out of a constituency that was already solidly supportive was not much less impressive than its 21.3 per cent swing in Mid-Staffs, where there were many more non-Labour voters to woo. Bootle could have been embarrassing complacency could have dulled party workers' energy and kept Labour voters at home. There was indeed a low turnout of 50.2 per cent, but it seems there were at least as many abstentions from the other parties.

Labour won three-quarters of the votes on offer, with the Conservatives scraping only 9 per cent. Their only consolation will be that they narrowly saw off the Liberal Democrats, who should be disappointed not to have come

second at a time when support for the Government is so low. Yet on the same night as Labour won Bootle so resoundingly, BBC *Newsnight's* poll of polls showed Labour's lead over the Tories falling by six points to 13 per cent. Should Labour be worried? Is the tide starting to turn?

When Labour peaked in March, its lead of around 23 per cent was a spring tide in nature as well as season. The combination of a sensational victory in Mid-Staffs and the announcement of the poll-tax rates sent Labour into orbit. Party leaders were, if anything, perturbed. They knew the lead was unsustainable and would have been happier with a 13 per cent lead that stuck than a 23 per cent gap that was bound to narrow.

Narrow it has, due partly to the gloss put on the Conservatives' relative success in London in the local elections. None the less, it is still a lead that should reassure Labour and worry the Tories.

In both 1980 and 1986, Labour led the Tories in the polls, yet the Conservatives came back to win the subsequent general elections. But in 1980, the tide turned back to the Tories by the end of the

second year of the parliament. In 1986, Labour overtook the Tories later in the term, but only narrowly. This time, the lead is both substantial and late, no government has recovered after being so far behind at this stage in the term and won the subsequent election.

Lurking behind Labour's lead in the polls is a worrying picture for Tory party managers. According to MORI's latest poll, skilled manual workers (C2s in the jargon) have deserted the Tories even faster than the rest of the electorate. Now 26 per cent would vote Conservative compared with 60 per cent for Labour; at the 1987 election the equivalent figures were 40 and 36 per cent.

And regional breakdowns from Gallup's survey of 9,000 voters show that Labour has started to build up a lead over the Tories in areas where it came third in 1987: the South-east outside London, and the South-west. In both the East and West Midlands, where there are clusters of marginals, Labour is also ahead, and has put on between 12 and 13 points of support in a year.

Perceptions of the party have improved dramatically too. The

main obstacle to voting Labour in the past 10 years has been a feeling that the party is both incompetent and divided. In November 1987, Gallup asked how competent Labour was to manage the country's affairs. Only 37 per cent thought it was very or fairly competent; 59 per cent that it was not very or not at all competent. By last month, those figures were reversed: 62 per cent thought Labour competent, and 35 per cent incompetent.

Questions about the parties' ability to handle the economy show a similar turnaround, with Labour now scoring higher than the Tories. The dull but reassuring nature of Labour's policy review is designed to consolidate these feelings — even down to the dowdy cover design, which looks like that of a Conservative manifesto of the 1950s.

On the question of party dividedness, Labour has consistently scored badly. For most of the past decade, between 70 and 80 per cent of those asked said they thought the party was divided. The Tories were predominantly seen as united. Now the tables have turned: in Gallup's

April poll, 41 per cent thought Labour united, and 47 per cent divided, while only 23 per cent thought the Conservatives united, and 68 per cent divided. Yet the Conservatives have always prided themselves on their appearance of unity; arguments, if they took place, were held in private.

Things are unlikely to get much worse for the Tories, except that inflation may rise in the summer. Tension surrounding the poll tax will lessen. The Chancellor may be able to start lowering interest rates in the autumn, and that will knock a few points off the retail price index. If inflation falls and the trade deficit shrinks, economic optimism ought to rise again — and that is usually a leading indicator of increased support for the government.

But there is a long way to go. Among middle-class voters (ABC1s), MORI's latest survey finds that twice as many are pessimistic as are optimistic about the economy; and among working-class voters (C2DEs), five times as many are pessimistic as are optimistic. If Labour has an electoral mountain to climb, the Tories' path is just as steep.

Give us back our freedom to roam where we please

Marion Shoard calls for legislation — with safeguards for owners — that would open the countryside to all



Like much of Britain's finest countryside, Hampshire's Test Valley is largely out of bounds

This bank holiday weekend, millions will contemplate a trip to the countryside. Visiting the countryside is our second favourite outdoor recreation — less popular than gardening but more popular than watching or taking part in organized sports. We are fortunate that Britain is blessed with a wealth of varied and attractive rural landscapes which few countries can match. But how much longer will we accept that most of it is out of bounds?

Each bank holiday weekend the crush gets worse at the local authority country parks, the National Trust beauty spots and the national park visitor centres around which so much of our rural recreation is concentrated. Our long-distance footpaths are worn away by the tramp of too many feet, and many rural venues to which people are forced to resort offer less in the way of peace and pastoral solace than Regent's Park. For many, the yearned-for trip to the country is becoming about as refreshing to body and soul as a trip on the Northern Line. It need not be so.

Beyond the reservations into which so many country-seekers are corralled lies a landscape big enough for all. Eighty per cent of the land surface of Britain is countryside, yet much of this vast area is shut off from the visitor by barbed wire fences, locked gates and notices threatening him with prosecution if he dares enter.

In most cases the threat of prosecution for trespass is of course hollow, but landowners are entitled to use force to exclude people from their holdings. Nobody wants a family outing spoiled by the prospect of an encounter with an angry gamekeeper, so we cram ever more tightly into those fragments of the countryside which appear to offer a welcome. Today, commercial attractions such as stately homes, zoos, parks and show farms will be as crowded as ever, but how many will dare tread the inviting but forbidden expanse beyond the ha-ha and the signposted walkway?

Yet demands for a public right of access to the countryside appeared to have won the day more than half a century ago. The 1930s saw pitched battles between walkers and gamekeepers over access to the grouse moors, followed by protest rallies which attracted up

to 10,000 people at a time. Against this background, the post-war government decided that men who had risked their lives for their country must not be barred from walking in it. A National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act designed to open the country to the people was passed in 1949. But now the countryside is less accessible than it was then.

Modern agriculture and forestry have eliminated much of the marginal land which used to provide opportunities for a casual stroll or picnic. Most of the public footpaths survive, but they avoid much of the best countryside and are often obstructed. In any case, they can provide only a right of passage through the landscape, not the opportunity to roam freely within it. The 1949 Act empowers local authorities to provide this opportunity by making access agreements and imposing access orders, yet these provisions have hardly been used, partly because rural councils are dominated by landowners.

In spite of the democratization of so much of the rest of Britain, landowners have managed to keep the countryside to themselves. They argue, as they did in the 1930s, that public access is incompatible with their businesses; in particular, they say that walkers would disturb game and vandalize property. Neither claim is as well-founded as it might appear.

The well-being of pheasants is often cited as the reason that walkers must be barred from our bluebell woods. Yet a survey by the British Field Sports Society showed that regular fox-hunting in pheasant woods actually improves shooting prospects by making birds more responsive to beating. Would rambles really be more disruptive than the hunt in full cry? Owners such as the Woodland Trust who have deliberately introduced access to property they have acquired have found that vandalism falls, since the presence of responsible visitors deters the irresponsible more effectively than threatening notices.

In fact, the British landowner's insistence on excluding the rest of us from his property seems to have more to do with a very British passion for possession than with practical realities. He seems to feel there is no point in owning land if you cannot exclude others from it. It is an attitude we can afford to countenance in our back gardens; but does it make sense to allow a single landowner to apply the same attitude to tens of thousands of acres when others want to visit them?

Elsewhere in Europe, the British idea that an individual can own the environment as completely as he owns his 12-bore or his Range Rover is met with disbelief. Every West German has the right to walk wherever he wants in his country's forests, with additional rights of access which vary in different Länder. In Sweden, *Allmansrätten* gives every citizen the right to walk freely in the countryside. Fields, woods, lakesides and pri-

vate roads and paths are open to all except where damage might result (for instance to crops) or privacy might be infringed (for instance around a house). Few problems appear to result from the exercise of such rights. There are few objections from landowners; they seem to accept that their own rights in their holdings ought not to preclude the harmless enjoyment of the countryside by their fellows.

I would be foolish to pretend that our own landowners would be quick to see things the same way. But the privilege of exclusion which they currently enjoy has come to represent a gross waste of one of our most valuable national assets — the land itself. The time has come to return our rural heritage to the people, by the provision of a general right of access to the countryside.

A new Act of Parliament could provide a right of access to every wood, park and roughland, lakeside and riverbank, moor and mountain, farm track and field edge, except where it could be demonstrated that this would be materially damaging. National security, the privacy of households or the vulnerability of particular agricultural operations might all be considered reasons for exemption. Temporary exemptions could be available for young plantations, on shooting days and during the breeding seasons of rare species. However, in other cases, unnecessary barriers to public access would be illegal.

Such a right to roam would not solve the problems of rural recreation overnight, but it might change our attitude to our countryside. Instead of it being someone else's private kingdom into which we venture at our peril, it would become the environment of us all, as it has not been since the Norman invaders stole the land from the people a thousand years ago. Who can tell what benefits the recovery of our homeland might bestow upon the national psyche? Certainly it ought to ensure more agreeable bank holidays for many of us.

Marion Shoard, a lecturer at the Polytechnic of Central London, is the author of *This Land is Our Land* (Paladin, £5.95).

Contemplating disappearance

As they return to their ancestral seats for the short recess, one might expect Labour's hereditary peers to be a glum lot. After all, their party has just published a policy document which promises that they will be consigned to the constitutional scrapheap under a Labour government. Looking to the future states unequivocally that "The anachronism of the House of Lords will be replaced by a second chamber". Despite that categorical commitment, which will form part of the party's manifesto at the next election, Labour peers have privately been told by Neil Kinnock that he has no intention of honouring the pledge — at least during the lifetime of a first Labour government.

Labour peers had threatened to rebel over earlier proposals for the future of the Upper House put forward by Roy Hattersley, and Kinnock went out of his way to soothe their fears recently at a packed private meeting. In a further sop to his hereditary peers, he has told them that nothing will be done before a Royal Commission has reported, and that could take several years. Labour left will of course regard this as a betrayal of one of its most cherished commitments, but it goes a long way to explain the jolly expressions on the peers' faces. Even if Kinnock were to win two terms and could not resist pressure for change, the Labour peers believe any legislation would fall a long way short of the party's present commitment. At worst,

they fear a one-clause Bill, which would leave existing peers unscathed and merely deprive their heirs of a vote in the Lords.

But does the delay not mean that Labour's manifesto is dishonest? Not at all, insists a senior Labour source in ermine. "The House of Lords has been around for about 800 years. A few more will not matter."

● A central plank of Labour's new policy document is that the party is "forging a new partnership with industry". Why, then, is it selling the document to the man in the street for £2.50 and trying to charge corporate bodies a tennor?

Master singers

The Society for the Prevention of Unnecessary Directors, the birth of which was reported here recently, now has a sister organization in the world of opera: "Chi Canta?", which seeks to restore the primacy of singers, musicians and conductors. Many opera directors, says founder Max Prola, a retired American clinical psychologist, "are fleas riding on the backs of giants. They are thrilled by the hostility of their reception when they take their bows. They are placing gimmicky conceptions above the composer's instructions." The name "Chi Canta?" (Italian for "who is singing?"). Prola disapproves of translating opera into English) was chosen because "the appreciation of vocal beauty is the main reason for going to the opera".

About the new Glyndebourne season, Prola has mixed feelings. "I don't wish to see Sellar's silly *Zauberflöte*. I shall attend the traditional production of *Falstaff*



DIARY

instead." Prola also singles out for particular criticism the English National Opera's recent series of Verdi productions, but David Pountney, ENO's director of productions, hits back strongly. "I am suspicious of anyone who can't think up a sensible English name for his organization. A monstrous, overpaid and largely inert singing star is just as likely to overbalance an opera as any of the wilder activities of the director. Luckily we don't employ these particular dinosaurs at ENO, so the problem does not arise."

Citizen non grata

Despite the worldwide success of Simon Schama's French Revolution blockbuster, crowned on Thursday night by his winning the £25,000 NCR non-fiction prize, one nation remains resistant to its intellectual power: France. The bestseller by the London-born Harvard professor of history has not proved at all popular across the Channel. *Citizens: A Chronicle of The French Revolution* has been translated into nine different languages, but

French is not one of them, nor are there any plans for a French edition. Almost the only French acknowledgement of the book was a vicious piece in *Le Monde* last year, apparently based on gleanings from American interviews with the author. Schama says that he diplomatically stayed away from the bicentenary celebrations last July. "I felt I might be an English ghost at the feast, so I sneaked in later in the year."



Surprise in store

More trouble for the Fayed. Although Harrods is putting a brave face on Paul Taylor's surprise resignation as deputy managing director — the parting is amicable, it insists — there is speculation among the 3,500 staff that he took exception to the bigger role in running the store given to Dodi Fayed, son of the House of Fraser chairman, Mohamed Fayed. Taylor's departure, after only two years in the post, is a blow to Harrods, and enormous inducements were offered in an attempt to persuade him to stay. Michael Cole, media director at the House

of Fraser, says: "There has been no blood and gore," though he admits that he has heard the speculation. Dodi Fayed, already a director, is better known as a film-maker and has just returned from Toronto, where he has been working on a sequel to his *Murder by Illusion*. But if he ever makes a home movie, he could be guaranteed his biggest box-office success to date.

Cash the conqueror

Revenge was sweet this week for William Cash, still smarting over Edward Heath's refusal to appear with him recently on Channel 4's *The World This Week* to discuss Europe. Cash seized the chance to get his own back at an Oxford Union debate in which he roundly defeated the former prime minister. Heath, a former president of the Union, opposed the motion that the people of Europe have more to lose than to gain from political union, but Cash won the day by 247 votes to 194. "Perhaps that is why he did not want me on the same television programme," said Cash.

● Members of The Times all-conquering football team who have been walking around the office all week singing "We're on our way to Wembley" have been disappointed. The team was due to meet the Daily Mirror tomorrow in the final of the Fleet Street Cup, but the pitch has taken such a pounding lately that the stadium authorities called it off. The game will now be played at Fulham's Craven Cottage ground. May the best team win — and if we don't, it will be the fault of the sub-standard pitch.



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REPAIRING LEASE

The surveyor's report on man's tenancy of the planet is in, as the Prime Minister put it yesterday, and reveals "that the repair work needs to start without delay". She accompanied her endorsement of the findings by the Inter-Governmental Panel on Climate Change with a call for a "giant international effort" to limit emissions of the gases which trap the sun's heat within the atmosphere.

"You cannot divide the atmosphere into segments", the Prime Minister said, and the temptation for any government to pass the buck to "the rest of the world" must in this case be a strong one. Yet nothing promotes international cooperation like setting a good example, and the panel's report will put the Government under pressure to improve its proposed target for holding British emissions of carbon dioxide to the present, 1990, level within 15 years.

Scientists insist that immediate cuts, worldwide, of more than 60 per cent in the output of long-lived gases — CO₂, nitrous oxide and chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) — will be needed even to stabilize their existing atmospheric concentration. If existing and emerging technologies were applied worldwide, the rate of global warming could be reduced by around two-thirds, but the implications for the way we live would be more radical than any government is yet prepared to contemplate.

Britain's declared position means increased concentrations of CO₂ for another generation. If Mrs Thatcher really accepts the existing scientific evidence, should she not bring her policy into line? Otherwise Britain is poorly placed to persuade poorer governments of what, in their case, are certain to be much heavier sacrifices.

Targets, however, tend to be given too much emphasis in global diplomacy. There is no greater irony in the modern world than that, just as planning is dropping out of fashion among nation states, a consensus is fast emerging on the need for some such *dirigisme* on a global basis. For targets it might therefore be better to substitute relentless pressure on all fronts, with all the support that free market incentives can give, including

taxes, debt adjustment and aid. Developing countries must see it as their obligation to join in what will be an enormously costly exercise in planetary management, with the biggest costs born by the developed nations. Incentives, and penalties, must be added to exhortation. Chinese, Indians and Africans are not going to forgo electric lights, refrigerators, air conditioners and cars just because they are urged to do so by countries which already have them and have, so far, contributed most to the greenhouse effect.

Mr David Trippier's announcement earlier this month that Britain plans to increase resources for tropical forestry by £100 million over three years hardly looks as generous as the Prime Minister suggested yesterday. There is a strong case for a concerted Western strategy of debt reduction tied to commitments, properly monitored, to switch from logging to harvesting the forests' renewable resources.

Estimates of population growth have recently been raised, and the Prime Minister was right to say that combating the greenhouse effect will be a Quixotic enterprise if the population doubles by the middle of next century. More of Britain's aid budget ought then to be allocated to family planning, since the latest data also confirms that most women would have fewer children if contraceptives were easily (which means locally) available.

With the exception of some applications in micro-electronics, alternatives to CFCs have been developed or are in sight. These technologies must be made available to developing countries, still responsible for only a quarter of CFC emissions, before such mainstays of modern life as refrigerators begin to be mass-produced there. Vacuum panels can replace CFCs as insulators; ammonia, once the standard coolant, may come into its own again.

Next month, Britain is host to the London Ozone Conference. An initiative on technology-sharing would be worth all the targets in the world — and might also make it possible to agree on them. Manufacturers have been ahead of governments in phasing out CFCs. They now need to invest globally in alternatives.

IN PLACE OF STRIKES

Whatever happens at the next election, the reform of British industrial relations accomplished by the Conservative Government will remain one of its abiding monuments. That much is clear from the Labour policy statement published on Thursday. Past reckless promises to sweep the whole package aside and to reinstate general trades union immunity at law have been quietly forgotten. The Labour leaders have told the unions that the party would be unselectable if it did not promise to retain most of the Conservative laws. Labour now believes in "a framework for industrial law" which would not have looked out of place in the 1979 Conservative manifesto.

The Conservatives had been hoping that this area would offer one of its most advantageous battlefields in the next campaign, and they must be disappointed that Labour has covered its flank so carefully. Last week, the employment secretary, Mr Michael Howard, tried to hole Labour's new policy below the water line with scathing questions expecting the answer No, including: "Would strike ballots still have the backing of the law?" "Would it stay unlawful to stage a strike to force an employer to accept a closed shop?" He must now drop at least half his questions because the answers are not the ones he hoped for.

Laws designed to govern the conduct of industrial disputes are more than usually inclined to unpredictable consequences. There is still scope, therefore, for a probing cross-examination of Labour's stated intentions. This applies even in the most notable philosophical shift, from replacing collective rights with individual ones as dominant in industrial relations. So strongly does this militate against Labour's traditional support for the union-as-bully that the public must be blinking at the radicalism of the change.

But Labour remains vulnerable on "sympathetic" or secondary action. Under present legislation a union can be sued and enjoined if it tries to induce industrial action against an employer who is not in primary dispute with

his employees, in order to increase pressure on another employer who is. Labour's understandable desire is to prevent a management dividing itself into separate legal entities in order to turn primary action into secondary action. This is a rare occurrence, owing more to legal ingenuity than to the intentions of Parliament. But the policy needs to be more clear if this is not to be seen as merely a Trojan Horse for the return of secondary picketing and the secondary strike as a routine weapon in the armoury of industrial dispute.

Those called on to take secondary action will have the right to ballot first. They may be peacefully picketed, in limited numbers, to persuade them how to vote. But how will Labour ensure that the picketing is limited to that intention, and how will it outlaw the traditional picket's approach — "we are asking you not to cross our picket line" — which is sometimes abbreviated to the intimidatory cry of "scab"? Labour says that the circumstances in which secondary action will be lawful should be carefully defined, limited to cases of a "direct" link of interest between the primary and secondary employers and employees so that, in common sense, they are all part of the same dispute. What exactly does "direct" mean? On this could turn a whole new war.

Labour's review gives examples of the circumstances in which secondary action would be permitted, which would include the instance where the secondary employer is a customer or supplier of the first. But such a secondary employer has no dispute with his work force, and no way of influencing the primary employer except by breaking the commercial contract between them. So what looks at first like a minor concession to the trades union movement could in practice be a major and unjust one. Labour will not restore confidence that it can be trusted with industrial relations while such doubts remain. The secondary strike was the curse on Britain's industrial landscape. Mr Blair should screw down the lid on it tighter still and tighter.

VIRGIN PLAYWRIGHT?

Queen Elizabeth, if legend speaks true, said to Shakespeare after a performance of *Henry IV*: "You must write a play with Sir John in love". (The result was *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, not one of his best.)

What is less well known, indeed until recently hardly suspected, is that as she said it she winked. Moreover, according to those responsible for a remarkable discovery in America, not only must she have winked, but she would likely have burst into unseemly giggles as well. For the discovery is that the author of the plays and poems was not Shakespeare, nor another man of the same name, nor Bacon, nor Marlowe, nor the Earl of Oxford, nor even Dr Rowse, but Gloriana herself, Queen Elizabeth the First.

For every great advance in civilization there will be scoffers, and this startling upset is unlikely to prove an exception. Some will jeer, saying that there is no evidence that the Queen wrote anything of any significance. To these the reply is that if, for her own reasons, she wanted to conceal her authorship, she would obviously have taken care to give no hint of her remarkable talent.

Others will draw attention to the fact that she died 13 years before Shakespeare did, and some of his most powerful plays were written in the last decade of his life. There is even less substance in that cavil; obviously, she left the remainder of her *oeuvre* to a trustworthy agent, in the manner of Mr Buddy Holly. Yet others would insist that she simply did not have time to write so huge a corpus of masterpieces, what with running the country, worrying about

Mary Queen of Scots and fending off Philip of Spain. Obviously, she started early.

Still others, somewhat less recklessly, will demand evidence. It is at hand. Two Californian professors, Ward Elliott and Robert Valenza, have spent three years feeding a hungry computer the entire works of Shakespeare, together with every word written by all the contenders for the usurper's crown. The nature of the tests and the technology which brought the news to light are far too complex for publication here; it is enough to say that the computer munched, perhaps even burped, and out came the answer. The Virgin Queen was "Shakespeare", and the laurel must be snatched from his brow, to adorn hers for ever more.

We should have guessed. She left enough clues. Look at the women — Rosalind, Portia, Imogen, Viola — forever dressing in men's clothes. Look at Lady Macbeth: "Infirm of purpose, give me the daggers!" Look at *Henry VIII*: "I would not be a queen for all the world". (Of course not: why bother to go about doing nothing but reign all day, when she could write like that?) What about *Measure for Measure*: "O, death's a great disguiser", a clear hint that there would be sensations to come when she had gone. Or *Much Ado*: "... as for your writing and reading, let that appear when there is no need of such vanity" — another clue to the revelations to come after her death.

But the two proofs have already settled the matter. All we have to do now is adjust to the new dispensation; the corks will be popping in the offices of Virago. Not for nothing was Good Queen Bess also the Dark Lady.

Forces' strengths in changing world

From Mr Michael Chichester

Sir, The news (report, May 21) that the Defence Ministry is studying changes in the shape and size of our armed forces is hardly surprising, given the tempo of this summer's programme of conferences and summits due to discuss disarmament, the reform of Nato, and the security status of a united Germany. But the seemingly haphazard manner in which this study is being undertaken gives cause for alarm. Much more is at stake than the outcome of yet another bitter and time-consuming struggle between the ministry and the Treasury over what weapon programmes should be delayed or abandoned and how many units should be disbanded.

The national interest now demands the most painstaking, far-sighted, and wide-ranging assessment of the future threats to our national security and to our overseas interests and of the most cost-effective means of dealing with these threats over the whole spectrum, from low-level anti-terrorism operations to all-out war. Our future defence capability should also include the means of providing an appropriate contribution to any collective organisation for the defence of Western Europe which emerges from the reform of Nato.

In the debate on national security the examination of costs should follow and not precede the assessment of threats and required capabilities. The Treasury must not become the sole arbiter of national security needs. Of course, the armed forces will become smaller, especially the Army, but we should ponder carefully the social, economic, and employment consequences of reducing armed forces manpower to levels not contemplated since the Second World War. In our crime-ridden and increasingly violent society the most necessary peace dividend will be the voluntary transfer of as many trained and disciplined men as possible from the armed forces to the forces of law and order, especially the police and the prison service, where their experience and powers of leadership are clearly needed.

Reports of ministers wildly plucking, as it were from a hat, possible low totals of frigates or of infantry battalions without any accompanying strategic scenario reveal an irresponsible approach to a great national problem, an approach which can only deepen the already considerable worries of servicemen over their future and hasten the rate of premature retirement.

For over a decade the armed forces have served the Prime Minister well in her valiant efforts to maintain Britain's strategic influence on the global stage. In the coming disarmament negotiations ministers should have one overriding objective, to ensure that our forces, arguably the most efficient and the best trained in the Western Alliance and a priceless national asset to boot, are rewarded with a role in the provision of humanitarian aid.

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Drug-treatment fear

From Dr A. Johns and Professor A. H. Ghodse

Sir, The Government is pressing ahead with health service reforms which are, in our view, likely to fragment and diminish services for drug-users in this country. Appropriate prescribing is one of the mainstays of treatment. If there is to be some element of competition, or an internal market between various drug services, this may lead to competitive prescribing rather than a high-quality service.

A further difficulty arises from the nature of the client group. Drug-users are often itinerant or homeless. Many do not have a general practitioner. A system of funding which depends on remuneration following the patient is likely to lead to the depletion of drug-unit resources.

This is likely to occur at a time when the needs of drug-users have never been greater. The threat of HIV makes it all the more imperative to draw them into treatment.

Over recent years the Government has been helpful in its provision of funds for drug-misuse services and for the prevention of HIV infection. Much of this good work will be undone if the White Paper proposals go ahead in their present form.

Yours sincerely, ANDREW JOHNS (Chairman, Doctors Responsible for London Drug Units), HAMID GHODSE (Honorary Secretary), St George's Hospital Medical School, Department of Mental Health Sciences, Jenner Wing, Cranmer Terrace, Tooting, SW17, May 17.

Kegworth air crash

From Mr P. J. Dawson

Sir, It has been said at the inquest into the M1 air crash (report, May 23) that the new style and relative position of the engine instruments on the Boeing 737-400 may have contributed to the accident.

Any sailor would agree that to colour the instrument LED (light-emitting diode) displays red and green respectively would instantly distinguish port from starboard. Yours faithfully, P. J. DAWSON, 103 Hereford Road, W2, May 23.

Easing pressure on crowded planet

From the Chairman of Population Concern

Sir, Eric Jeffs (May 22) mentions the likely effect of additional human numbers on greenhouse gases. It has been estimated that the present human population of the world contributes, just from respiration, carbon dioxide equal to 10 per cent of that produced by fossil fuel burning. The estimated 1.4 billion cattle, however, probably contribute another 17 per cent. Both humans and cattle also contribute a sizeable proportion of methane emissions.

As the human population grows from its present figure of about 5.3 billion towards 10 billion or even 14 billion, the number of cattle is bound to go up as well (although not necessarily pro rata) adding considerably to greenhouse gases. If you then add increased economic activity in the Third World, it is obvious that the greenhouse effect is not just a problem caused by the industrial world, although we bear a major part of the responsibility.

Solutions will demand a global consensus, but the developed world is going to have to meet much of the cost. We can start by following Sir Charles Morrison's suggestion (May 22) of doubling the amount of overseas aid that goes towards family planning. This is one of the most cost-effective measures that could be taken to combat environmental degradation in general and the greenhouse effect in particular.

Yours faithfully, DIANA BROWN, Chairman, Population Concern, 231 Tottenham Court Road, W1, May 23.

From Mr Robert Whelan

Sir, Eric Jeffs appears to view babies principally as producers of noxious gases, both carbon dioxide and methane. However, his apparent willingness to blame environmental problems like the greenhouse effect on women who have too many of these gaseous babies is wide of the mark.

Environmental purity is a

A tax on energy

From the Chairman of the Institute for Social Inventions

Sir, Your Environment Correspondent reports (May 24) that tax increases on energy will be needed to meet the UK's new policy on CO₂ emissions, and that "presenting that fact to the public will test the Tories' skills before an election". One way might be to replace the poll tax with a tax on "secondary energies", such as electricity, fuel oil, gas, petrol, diesel and coal.

Professor Malcolm Slesser, of the Centre for Human Ecology at Edinburgh University, has produced examples of what the effect of such a tax would have been on Edinburgh in 1989 — for instance, one adult in a flat with no car would have paid £270, as opposed to a poll tax of £392; five council-house adults with no car would have paid £907 (poll tax £1,960); whereas a couple with two teenagers over 18 and with two cars, living in a high-quality house, would have paid £1,665 (poll tax £1,568). In other words, more active people, those with bigger houses, and those who drive a great deal, pay more.

Other advantages of the proposed tax are that it would do away with business rates; net an income from tourists; it would be far cheaper to collect than the poll tax or the rates; it cannot readily be evaded and so captures the black economy; it requires no "big brother" to register us; it promotes public transport; and above all, it encourages energy conservation. Yours faithfully, NICHOLAS ALBERY, Chairman, The Institute for Social Inventions, 24 Abercorn Place, NW8, May 24.

From Mr J. Barry Keenan

Sir, Richard Ford's article (May 16) relating to former ministers' City directorships highlights an unfortunate practice.

The matter is not confined to former ministers but extends also to many MPs. I believe the practice should stop and would suggest that a system similar to that used in the USA be adopted. Following resolutions resulting from the Oby Commission Report in 1977 senators and congressmen must limit their outside earnings to 15 per cent of their salary. This rule has two benefits: more attention to official duties and less conflict of interest.

Also full particulars of income and gifts over \$100 must be put into annual written declarations that are available for public inspection and publication.

MPs rightly have a position of honour in our communities and they should have rules which openly uphold their duty to provide full time attention to their parliamentary duties and freedoms from external financial pressures. Yours faithfully, J. BARRY KEENAN, Lower Rivington House, Dryfield Lane, Rivington, Lancashire, May 17.

MPs and directorships

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Charity law

From the Director of the National Council for Voluntary Organisations

Sir, Your report (May 21) that the Home Secretary is expected to press for early legislation "to give the Charity Commission stronger powers to deal with fraud and mismanagement".

Since it was published in July, 1987, we have argued, in common with the rest of the charitable world, that the investigative role of the commission would be greatly enhanced by the implementation of the main recommendations of the Woodfield report.

Good housekeeping and trust have kept the cases of fraud and mismanagement to a minimum, but charities need to be protected from the tiny minority of unscrupulous operators. That requires giving the commission the practical powers it needs to enforce the law.

The Home Secretary deserves the support of all charities. Yours sincerely, USHA PRASHAR, Director, National Council for Voluntary Organisations, 26 Bedford Square, WC1, May 23.

Frumpy frocks

From Mr G. S. Tremear-Harvey

Sir, Glyndebourne is only in its first week but even so I detect an unfortunate drop in standards. Of the womanfolk's style of dress, that is.

Last evening, while attending *Die Zauberflöte*, one saw far too many short, frumpy frocks being worn instead of the more attractive and more appropriate evening gowns.

While a couple of lounge suits let the side down, the men were invariably properly attired in dinner suits. Surely our women can do better. I have the honour to be, Sir, your obedient servant, GLENMORE TREMEAR-HARVEY, 6 Marlborough, 61 Walton Street, Knightsbridge, SW3, May 24.

Letters to the Editor

Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (071) 782 5046.

Baker snipes at Kinnock £2bn 'gaffe' on spending

By NICHOLAS WOOD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Conservatives yesterday seized on Mr Neil Kinnock's disclosure of his party's plans for an extra £2 billion in taxes to press home their attack on Labour's economic policy.

Yeltsin on verge of challenge

Continued from page 1

denying that he was against co-operatives in principle, he said he had actually closed 320 co-operatives in a day - all run by rogues and speculators - and he said there was a need to distinguish between good co-operatives and bad.

The country's new economic programme brought a swift response when the Ukraine, the second largest republic, said it would oppose the radical package, and miners in the country's largest coalfield said that they would stage a protest against it.

Mr Nikolai Ryzhkov, the Soviet Prime Minister, called for calm and restraint as other reports of panic-buying and protests against planned price rises came in from all over the country. At a hastily organized press conference, he staunchly defended his reforms as essential, and said that he had no intention of resigning.

With discussions between the Kremlin and Lithuania again at a standstill, the economic sanctions against Vilnius are beginning to bite deeply. Yesterday, the Lithuanian government restricted the legal issue of petrol to food transport and emergency services, while the supply of hot water for domestic and industrial use was ended.

the Tory chairman, argued that Mr Kinnock had widened his "credibility gap" still further and claimed his arithmetic was "muddled-headed and wrong".

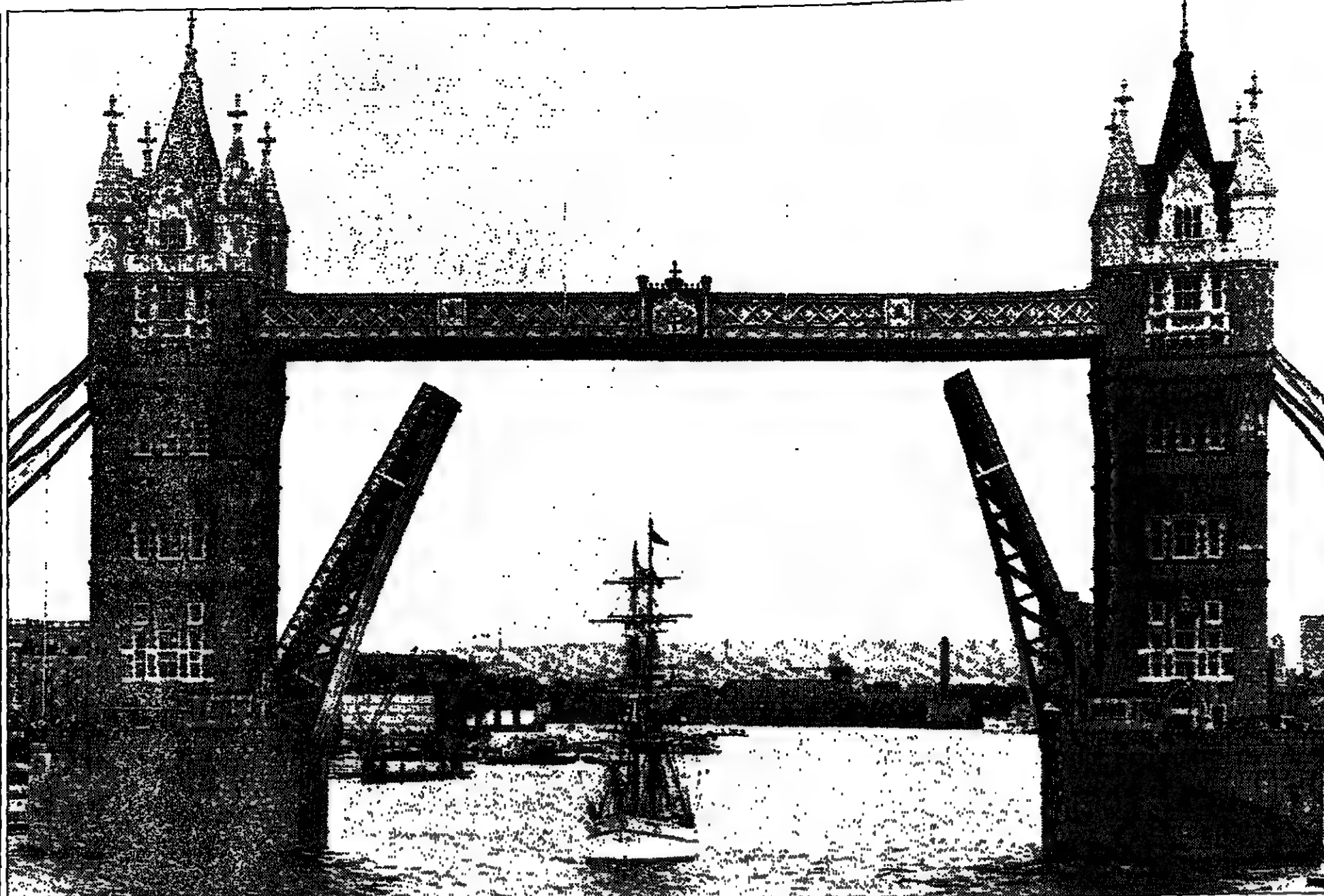
Mr John Major, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, maintained that the Opposition could not meet its spending commitments "without a very significant increase in taxation for the average taxpayer".

Meanwhile, Mr Cecil Parkinson, the Secretary of State for Transport, labelled a passage in *Looking to the Future* "offensive and malicious" for alleging that disasters such as the loss of the Zeebrugge ferry were "symbols of a Government, which has put cost-cutting before people's lives". He said that Dr John Cunningham, Labour's campaign co-ordinator, should immediately withdraw the statement.

Mr Kinnock said in an ITN interview on Thursday night that Labour would meet the cost of its pledges on pensions and child benefit through its plan to raise the top rate of income tax from 40 per cent to 50 per cent. Asked what sort of figure he was talking about, he replied: "A figure in excess of £2 billion, and that is in the first year."

Mr Baker maintained that Mr Kinnock had got his sums wrong. Mr Gavin Davies of Goldman Sachs, one of his party's advisers, had put the bill at £3.3 billion. "Muddled-headed arithmetic undermines your claim that you will only spend what you can raise. £2 billion from the very rich does not equal £3.3 billion."

Mr Norman Lamont, the Chief Secretary to the Treasury, said the £2 billion would not even pay for Labour's priority spending pledges on pensions and child benefit, let alone Mr Kinnock's own pledges for a total of £5.5 billion on aid and health. "Labour's latest document is a recipe for failure. Its vast numbers of pledges could only be met by large increases in taxes and borrowing."



THE 125-foot brig Maria Assumpta, the oldest tall ship still sailing regularly, passing through Tower Bridge yesterday on a courtesy visit to the Pool of London. She was built in Spain in 1858 and is now based at Ipswich (writes Alan Hamilton). Her voyage has been sponsored by a

Hertfordshire electronics company to promote a new range of products. On her way up river the Maria Assumpta passed the bridge which is being built at Dartford to carry the M25 motorway across the Thames. When entrants in the Tall Ships Race assembled by the Tower of

London last year it was feared that the bridge, scheduled for completion next summer, would prevent tall ships from ever being seen in the Pool of London again. But the Port of London Authority said yesterday that the bridge, with a clearance of over 162 feet in the centre of its span,

would admit all but the tallest ships. Among last year's race entrants, only the Russian barques Sedov and Mir, among the largest sailing ships in the world, would have been prevented from navigating the river. The Maria Assumpta, whose masts rise a mere 100 feet from the

waterline, could negotiate the completed bridge with ease. When the M25 crossing was being designed the PLA, which is trying to encourage more cargo traffic to come upriver, made strong representations on behalf of a high bridge and won its point.

Older northerners with ready cash lead flight to the sun

By HARVEY ELLIOTT
AIR CORRESPONDENT

PACKAGE holiday flights this year will contain a higher proportion of older people from the North than previously as high interest rates force southern families to abandon summer holidays.

Tour operators, who have reduced the number of packages by more than two million because of the economic down-turn, are taking most of

their bookings from the North, where mortgage costs are, on average, less of a burden than in the South, and from older couples whose savings are growing fast with the extra interest.

The average house price in the North is £45,500, according to the Halifax Building Society, compared with £90,800 in London and £75,000 in the South-east. The average amount outstanding on a mortgage in the North

is £31,800 compared with £67,100 in London and £56,100 in the South-east.

Little wonder, therefore, that, in the South, young couples with families are finding it harder than ever to find the money for a two-week summer break, while their counterparts in the North still have, after mortgage payments, enough disposable income for a holiday.

Any doubts in finalizing their holiday plans have, the

Association of British Travel Agents says, been caused by worries about the cost of the Community Charge. Even that, however, is nowhere near as burdensome as meeting mortgage bills.

At the same time, the older couple who have paid off their mortgage or whose children have left home, are better off than ever as building societies pay up to 12 per cent interest on their savings. Now, these elderly savers from the North

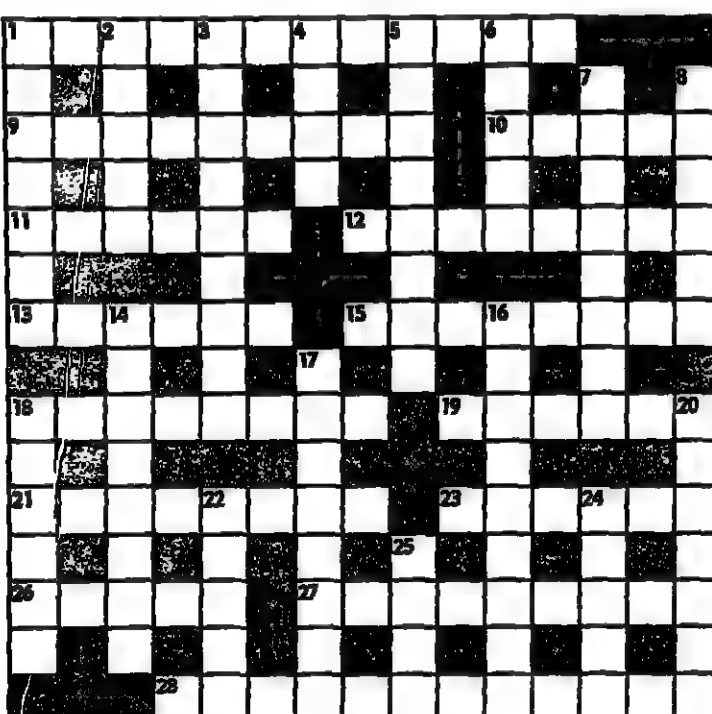
seem determined to make the most of their additional cash and are booking heavily with some couples taking as many as five holidays in a year.

Thomson Holidays says that, for the first time, as many package holiday flights will leave Manchester this year as Gatwick and that their Young at Heart programme - aimed almost exclusively at the older age group - has already virtually sold out for this summer. Although the traditional holi-

day destinations of the Spanish Costas remain the most popular, the elderly are becoming more adventurous.

Bookings for long haul destinations such as Florida, Barbados and Thailand are up on last year. It is a similar story with "City Breaks" which have increased by 25 per cent. The change in customer profile will be welcomed by Spanish resorts which have been trying to rid themselves of a "lager lout" image.

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 18,304



ACROSS

- Such relations have more than usual to do with a husband (5-7).
- One page is enough for getting information (9).
- Head of school absent from dull game (5).
- Sluggish Oxford crew (6).
- Masonry's old upholders (8).
- Redhead engrossed in book (6).
- In a state, being stuffed with custard pie (8).
- Saver having second thoughts? (8).
- Some Lilliputian eggs were broken at the grand finale (3,3).
- If wearing long hair, saint can be easily recognised (8).
- He curses a form of rebuff (6).
- Keeping awake at night? The poet's night out (5).
- Stuck on skin, and dyed in the wool (9).
- Congreve play - a two-hander as produced by him? (6-6).

DOWN

- High-flier a prospective candidate for this seat? (7).
- Trust a piranha to devour this animal (5).
- One who has always lived in the country, from birth in Lincoln (9).
- A night bird not shut up (4).
- Sort of guidance one needs in retail conglomerate (8).
- Silver and gold find a market place in Greece (5).
- Let's make this race difficult (8).
- Little quadruped in Western holding up the picture (6).
- Jokes becoming mouldy in time (8).
- Large branch of tree breaks thick rope but can be surmounted (9).
- The Dutch in India? (8).
- Abolish degree (6).
- He scoffs free venison sandwiches (7).
- Paper product of oil (5).
- Brain case, say, caused by a shell? (5).
- Cutting tool as announced in the commercials (4).

Jumbo Crossword, page 46

Solution to Puzzle No 18,298

Solution to Puzzle No 18,303

SHEAFFER

A prize of a distinctive Sheaffer "Targa" Regency Stripe fountain pen with a solid 14-carat gold inlaid rib will be given for the first five correct solutions opened next Thursday. Entries should be addressed to: The Times Saturday Crossword Competition, PO Box 486, Virginia Street, London E1 9DD. The winners and solution will be published next Saturday.

Name/Address

WORD-WATCHING

A daily safari through the language jungle. Which of the possible definitions is correct?

By Philip Howard

- FEDARIE**
a. An erroneous accomplice
b. An Egyptian measure of land
c. Salmon spawning ground
- SALSE**
a. Wit
b. A pasta sauce
c. A mud volcano
- CROME**
a. A yellow pigment
b. A spreadable fat
c. A hook or crook
- METONYMY**
a. Matrimonial descent
b. Nicknaming
c. Verse of only one rhyme

Answers on page 13

TIMES WEATHERCALL

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0898 500 followed by the appropriate code.

Greater London	701*
Kent, Surrey, Sussex	702*
Devon & Cornwall	703*
Wiltshire, Dorset, Somerset	704*
Berkshire, Bucks, Oxford	705*
Gloucestershire, Hereford & Worcester	706*
West Midlands	707*
East Midlands	708*
Lincoln & Humberside	709*
Yorkshire & the Fens	710*
North East	711*
North West	712*
West of Scotland	713*
East of Scotland	714*
Wales	715*
London & the Home Counties	716*
London & the Home Counties	717*
London & the Home Counties	718*
London & the Home Counties	719*
London & the Home Counties	720*
London & the Home Counties	721*
London & the Home Counties	722*
London & the Home Counties	723*
London & the Home Counties	724*
London & the Home Counties	725*
London & the Home Counties	726*
London & the Home Counties	727*
London & the Home Counties	728*
London & the Home Counties	729*
London & the Home Counties	730*

Weathercall is charged at 5p for 8 seconds (peak and standard) 5p for 12 seconds (off peak).

AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic and roadworks information, 24-hours a day, dial 0836 401 followed by the appropriate code.

London & SE traffic, roadworks	
C London (within N & S Circs)	731
M-ways/roads M4-M1	732
M-ways/roads M1-Dartford	733
M-ways/roads Dartford-T-M25	734
M-ways/roads M25-M4	735
M25 London Orbital only	736
National traffic and roadworks	
National motorways	737
West Country	738
Wales	739
Midlands	740
East Angles	741
North-west England	742
North-east England	743
Scotland	744
Northern Ireland	745
AA Roadwatch is charged at 5p for 8 seconds (peak and standard) 5p for 12 seconds (off peak)	

The winners of last Saturday's competition are: Dr B. Burrows, School Lane, Steyning, Bognor Regis, Sussex; N. W. Isom, 11, Godfrey's Court, Woking, Surrey; D. Oxford, Regency Close, Hampton, London; T. Pater, Mowbray Road, South Shields, Tyne & Wear; R. Cooper, Sandy Lane, St Ives, Cornwall.

WEATHER

Most parts will have a dry and sunny day with only patchy cloud blocking the sun now and then. During the afternoon, however, cloud will spread from the west over Northern Ireland, Wales and the south-west. Winds will keep temperatures down around resorts in the south-east and along the east coast, but inland it will feel very pleasant. Overnight, most areas will be clear with a widespread ground frost away from the west of the country. Outlook: mostly dry and sunny.

ABROAD

City	Temp	Wind	Cloud
Algeria	21/70	SE	100
Amman	20/68	SE	100
Baghdad	20/68	SE	100
Bombay	20/68	SE	100
Buenos Aires	20/68	SE	100
Calcutta	20/68	SE	100
Cairo	20/68	SE	100
Colon	20/68	SE	100
Hong Kong	20/68	SE	100
London	20/68	SE	100
Madras	20/68	SE	100
Manila	20/68	SE	100
Medan	20/68	SE	100
Mumbai	20/68	SE	100
Nairobi	20/68	SE	100
Rangoon	20/68	SE	100
Singapore	20/68	SE	100
Taipei	20/68	SE	100
Tokyo	20/68	SE	100
Yokohama	20/68	SE	100

AROUND BRITAIN

City	Temp	Wind	Cloud
Belfast	14/57	SE	100
Birmingham	14/57	SE	100
Bristol	14/57	SE	100
Cardiff	14/57	SE	100
Edinburgh	14/57	SE	100
Glasgow	14/57	SE	100
London	14/57	SE	100
Manchester	14/57	SE	100
Newcastle	14/57	SE	100
Nottingham	14/57	SE	100
Sheffield	14/57	SE	100
Sunderland	14/57	SE	100
Swansea	14/57	SE	100
Torquay	14/57	SE	100
Wrexham	14/57	SE	100

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Thursday: Highest day temp: Torquay, 18.5; Lowest night temp: Cape Wrath, 4.5. (40°F; highest rainfall: 1.2 in; lowest rainfall: 0.2 in; highest sunshine: 14.5 hr; lowest sunshine: 1.5 hr).

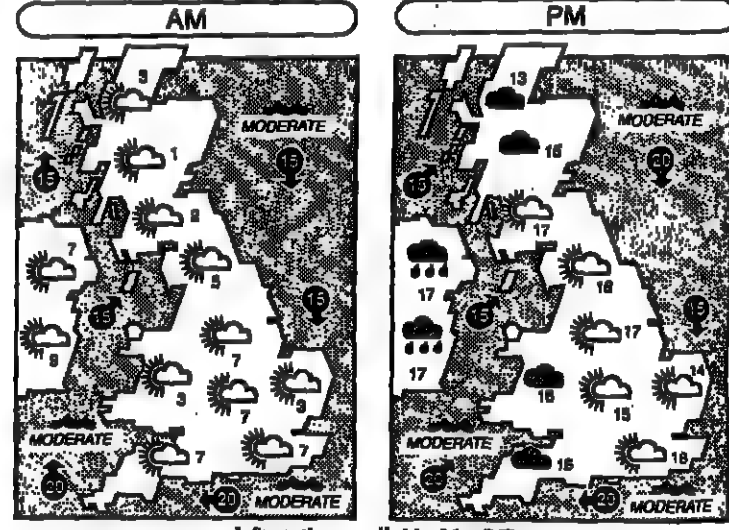
GLASGOW

Thursday: Temp: max 5 am to 6 pm, 16C (61F); min 6 pm to 8 am, 8C (39F); Rain: 24hr to 6 pm, nil; Sun: 24hr to 6 pm, 14.1 hr.

HIGH TIDES

City	Time	Height
London Bridge	4:24	7.0
London Bridge	4:24	7.0
London Bridge	4:24	7.0
London Bridge	4:24	7.0
London Bridge	4:24	7.0
London Bridge	4:24	7.0
London Bridge	4:24	7.0
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Information supplied by Met Office

6 Jasper always likes an Opening Night as he thinks it refers to

Clicquot

CHAMPAGNE OF THE SEASON

Veuve Clicquot-Ponsardin

LA GRANDE DAME DE LA CHAMPAGNE

- HOME LOANS: FIXED RATES 24
- INVESTMENTS: REFEREE 25
- BORROWINGS: PERILS 26
- TRUSTS: PACIFIC 27

BUSINESS

SECTION 2

SATURDAY MAY 26 1990

DTI will consider 'mix-up' claims

THE Department of Trade and Industry said that it will "consider detailed compensation claims" from people who may have lost money through the Dixons-Kingfisher mix-up this week.

Criticism followed the confusion over the early release of the Monopolies Commission's report and the decision by Mr Nicholas Ridley, the Trade Secretary, to block the Kingfisher bid, it has been claimed that the premature release triggered buying and selling of shares before the official Stock Exchange announcement.

The DTI said: "If anyone were to put in a detailed claim relating to losses in Dixons or Kingfisher shares as a direct result of the error then we will give it full consideration."

A spokesman said it was "absolutely not" possible to say what sort of sums this might involve.

Shares euphoria begins to fade

THE wave of euphoria that this week carried the equity market briefly back above the 2,300 level for the first time in three months started boiling over as the two-week account drew to a close.

Profit-taking, combined with futures-related selling and a dull start to trading on Wall Street, dragged share prices lower. The FT-SE 100 index closed 11.5 points down at 2,265.6, investors and market-makers having been unwilling to open positions before the bank holiday.

Selling was described as light but the mood among investors was in stark contrast to the enthusiasm of last week when hopes of an early entry into the European exchange rate mechanism sent the index climbing by 95 points.

The index hit a three-month peak of 2,311.3 on Tuesday, but much of that enthusiasm has been whittled away by another round of gloomy economic statistics. As a result, the rise on the account has been reduced to 83.9 points.

Market reports, page 21

THE POUND

US dollar 1.5900 (-0.0025)

W German mark 2.8408 (+0.0060)

Exchange index 89.1 (+0.1)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share 1800.0 (-5.2)

FT-SE 100 2265.6 (-11.5)

New York Dow Jones 2835.63 (-19.92)

CLOSING PRICES

INTEREST RATES

London: Bank Base: 15%

3-month interbank 15 1/2-15 3/4%

3-month eligible bills 14 1/2-14 3/4%

US: Prime Rate 10%

Federal Funds 8 1/4%

3-month Treasury Bills 7 7/8-7 9/8%

30-year bonds 10 1/2-10 3/4%

CURRENCIES

London:

US \$1.5900

DM 2.8408

FF 166.63

Yen 149.88

ECU 16.2207

SDR 16.2207

ECU 16.2207

SDR 16.2207

GOLD

London:

AM \$366.35 pm \$366.50

close \$367.00 \$367.50

217.50

New York:

Comex \$367.10 \$367.60

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Jul) \$18.85 bbl (\$18.70)

* Denotes latest trading price

TOURIST RATES

Australia \$

Bank 2.35

2.35

2.35

2.35

Worries over GrandMet debt send shares down

By JOHN BELL, CITY EDITOR

THE City reacted badly to news that Grand Metropolitan has dropped plans to sell Alpo, its US petfoods business, in a deal that was expected to reduce the group's debt mountain by up to \$600 million. GrandMet shares fell 15 1/2p to 589 1/2p as the market assessed the snags that have hit the group's plans for a significant reduction in borrowings this year.

The £2.8 billion pub swap with Elders DKL has been blocked by a reference to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission despite last-minute efforts to restructure the deal in order to meet reservations by the Office of Fair Trading. The swap, combined with a sale of GrandMet

brewing interests to Elders. Coverage subsidiary would have reduced GrandMet's 96 per cent year-end gearing to about 70 per cent. The Alpo deal would have trimmed that figure to about 55 per cent. At the year end, total group borrowings amounted to £3.2 billion.

GrandMet said that offers for Alpo were coming in around the bottom end of expectations. "Buyers were mainly interested in Alpo's premium dog food product which have a leading market position. The offers did not include anything for the successfully launched range of premium catfoods which have been well received," said Mr Tim Halford, of GrandMet.

After a £20-million launch Alpo's cat food products have gained a 9 per cent

market share and are now sold in 90 per cent of US supermarket outlets according to GrandMet. Alpo's profits this year will be hit by the cat food launch costs but sales in the six months to end-March increased by 38 per cent to \$260 million.

"Rather than sell Alpo cheaply for short-term reasons of reducing gearing, we have decided to retain it for the longer term earnings benefits," Mr Halford said.

"This came as a disappointment to the market. If it had been sold it would have brought the company's debt levels down," said Mr John Spicer, brewing analyst at Kleinwort Benson, the securities firm.

Analysts were yesterday pondering the earnings implications of the Alpo retention and will probably shade down their earnings

forecasts for the current year. They are expecting GrandMet profits in the range £900 million to £930 million for the current year after £732 million last time. Earnings per share are projected to rise from last year's 55.6p to about 65p this year putting the shares on a prospective p/e ratio of 9.

GrandMet is believed to have made the announcement in good time for a meeting of 200 analysts in New York next week. The group is considering a listing in New York next year and believes that there is growing US interest in the shares already. GrandMet, which has substantial US interests including Burger King and the Pillsbury food and flour product businesses, says that its shares are trading at a

noticeable discount to similar US companies.

The decision of the MMC on the asset swap with Elders will not become public until September at the earliest. The commission has been instructed to complete its work by August 25. GrandMet was due to have sold its breweries to Elders and formed a joint company with the Foster's group. Effectively this would have created a tied estate of about 6,000 pubs linked to Elders' brewing operation.

The reference was the third time that an attempt by Elders to strengthen its position in the British brewing market has been sent for official scrutiny. The current investigation is regarded as crucial for an Elders capital reconstruction plan.

Outlook bleak after Lowndes loses £80m

By MICHAEL TATE, DEPUTY CITY EDITOR

THE full extent of the Lowndes Queensway disaster was revealed yesterday when Mr Norman Ireland, the new chairman, reported a net loss of £80 million for the year to end-January.

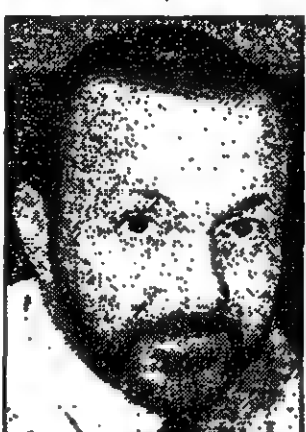
The results are "in line with" the forecast which accompanied the latest of the furniture and carpet group's refinancing packages in January, but look no better for that. Without a £2.2 million contribution from its 20 per cent stake in Brown & Jackson, a legacy of the Poundstretcher sale, it would be near-impossible to find black ink on the accounts.

The losses, which compare with a £9.1 million pre-tax profit for the six months to January 1989, comprise a £24.8 million trading deficit, £24.8 million of interest charges, £34.6 million provisions and a £600,000 tax bill.

And while the group claims to be ahead of target in its rationalization, the outlook remains bleak. "Trading in the opening months of 1990 has been very difficult," says Mr Ireland. "The market remains depressed and we do not anticipate any marked improvement until 1991."

That will further unsettle Lowndes Queensway shareholders, who have seen the value of their investment shrink to almost nothing. The shares, effectively valued at about 90p each at the August 1988 buyout from Harris Queensway, sank 1/4p to 3/4p.

Lowndes Queensway has been a disaster since Mr James Gulliver led the £450 million



Dayan: lists priorities acquisition of most of Sir Philip Harris's Harris Queensway less than two years ago.

Rising interest rates, mounting losses, disputes with suppliers and problems selling the Poundstretcher and Hamleys chains have led it to the brink of collapse more than once, and eventually, at the beginning of this year, caused the departure of Mr Gulliver.

Two separate refinancing operations have kept it afloat, and its every move is watched by 20 banks.

However, Mr Eddie Dayan, the chief executive, pointed out that the results were no worse than predicted at the latest refinancing.

"We said the loss before interest and exceptional would be at least £20 million - it is £20 million. We predicted interest charges would total approximately £25.5 million - they were £24.8 million. We forecast exceptional costs of approximately £35.0 million - they were £34.6 million."

The exceptional costs relate to the reconstruction undertaken by Mr Dayan and his

team, which has involved closing about 40 per cent of the outlets and cutting 2,000 jobs.

Mr Dayan says that by the end of this month most outlets targeted for closure will have been closed, and the rest will be closed by the end of the year. Lowndes Queensway will be left with 424 outlets, of which 81 will be concessions and 221 out-of-town stores.

Site disposals, originally expected to raise £82 million, are ahead of schedule. Year-end borrowings are £120 million, after crediting the £70 million injected in January.

Mr Dayan says like-for-like cost savings during the year were about £15 million, and that the group is on target to achieve savings of £25 million a year by January 1991, equivalent to 15 per cent of total costs. This compares with a target of £20 million last year.

This is against a background of "one of the most difficult years ever experienced in the furniture and carpets markets." The group's main customer base, young families with mortgages, has been hit by rising interest rates.

Furniture sales dropped 21.7 per cent on a direct comparison, while carpet sales slid 16.7 per cent. The result was a £14.9 million trading loss on furniture and a £7.3 million deficit in carpets.

Since then home-owners have had to face a further 1 per cent rise in mortgage rates and the introduction of the poll tax. "This undoubtedly will make market conditions even tougher," said Mr Ireland.

"Our short-term priorities are focused on managing for cash, maximizing sales, improving overall controls and completing the rationalization programme," says Mr Dayan.

Bidders line up for Crystalate

JOHN CHAPMAN



A smile despite his problems: Bob Eade, chief executive of Crystalate, takes a break in London yesterday

US group launches £30.6m cash offer

By OUR CITY STAFF

CRYSTALATE, the besieged electronic component manufacturer, has received a £30.6 million cash offer from Vishay Intertechnology, a US group with which it has trading links.

But Vishay has not proved to be the white knight Crystalate had hoped for. Lord Jenkin, the chairman and former industry Secretary, said Vishay's terms were not much better than those of TT, the conglomerate which launched its bid two months ago.

Dr Felix Zandman, Vishay's chairman, said: "Crystalate represents a tremendous opportunity for Vishay. We have been business partners for many years and the commercial fit is superb." Lord Jenkin replied that while he agreed with the logic of combining the two companies, the offer did not reflect the value of Crystalate to Vishay.

Vishay is offering 80p cash a share, or one of its shares for 14 Crystalate, worth 90.6p, with its own shares trading at \$21.5. Although the paper alternative is 0.3p higher than the value of TT's seven-for-ten share swap terms, with TT at 129p, it is available for only two-thirds of the offer.

TT's part cash terms are worth 83 1/2p.

Crystalate's profits peaked at £7.1 million in 1986-87, against losses of £897,000 in the first half of this year.

Its biggest problems have centred around its former core business, making carbon microphones for telephones. This was hit by rival technology and the British Telecom privatization, according to Mr Bob Eade, the chief executive.

Crystalate's shares, after sinking initially from 85p to below the value of Vishay's cash offer, recovered to 81p.

Courtaulds Textiles cuts 500 more jobs

By JEREMY ANDREWS

COURTAULDS Textiles, the underwear and apparel fabric manufacturer, has announced that it has shed a further 500 jobs and close three more spinning mills in Lancashire.

The company blamed overcapacity and weak demand for the move, which had led to "intense price pressure" in the European yarn market.

However, it said the remaining mills, on which it had spent £20 million over the past four years, were well placed to become a defensible core for its spinning operations.

The plants affected by the latest decision are the Atlas Mill in Ashton-under-Lyne, Manor Mill in Oldham and Mars Mill in Rochdale.

The company said the

Salary fall for Globe chairman

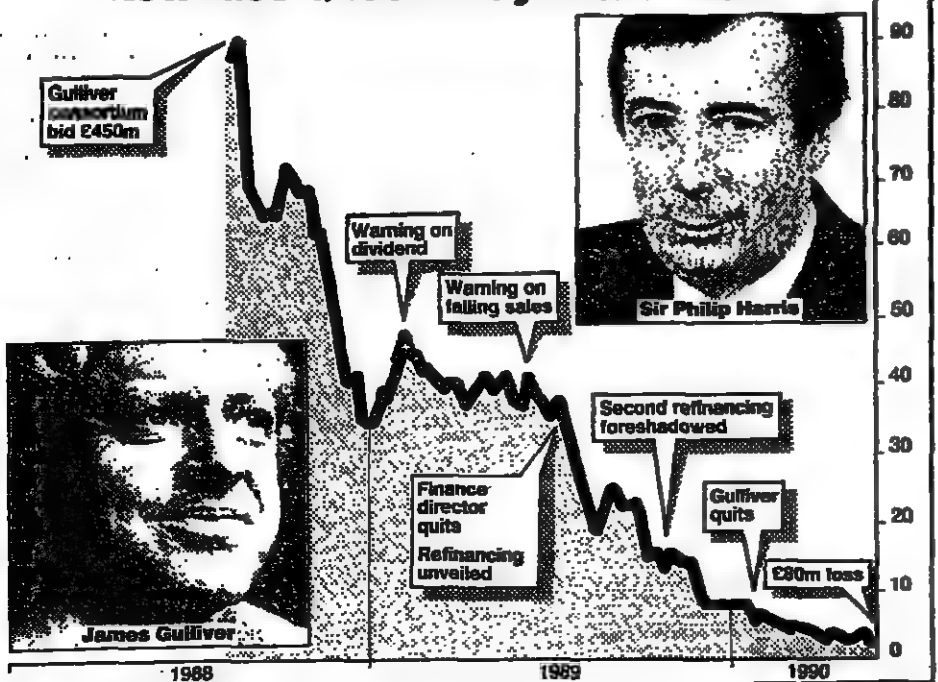
THE chairman of Globe, the investment trust fighting a £1.03 billion hostile bid from the British Coal Pension Funds, saw his pay fall by £10,000 last year.

Globe's annual report reveals that Mr David Hardy's salary dropped from £158,000 to £148,000 in the year to end-March. This was because the trust's asset growth only just beat the FT All Share index, rising by 3.7 per cent against 3.6 per cent.

The report answers criticisms made by British Coal over the trust's revaluation, which increased Globe's assets from an initial estimate of 204.6p a share to 213p.

Figures showed that Globe's unquoted portfolio rose by £29 million, or 5.4p a share.

Lowndes Queensway share slide



Administrator cleared of selling at 'gross undervalue'

By a COURT CORRESPONDENT

A PETITION by 11 insurance companies alleging that a company administrator acted with undue haste and sold off an insolvent insurance broking business at a "gross undervalue" has been dismissed by a High Court judge.

Mr Justice Millett rejected the companies' claim for a declaration that Mr Tony Richmond, senior insolvency partner in the north-eastern region of Peat Marwick McLintock, the accountant, had acted in a manner prejudicial to the interests of creditors in his administration of Charney Davies Ltd, an insurance broker in Leeds, Wakefield and Hull, and one of 17 companies in the Charney Davies Group, which crashed in January 1987. The group collapsed after Lloyds Bank, then owed £2.6 million on overdraft, withdrew support.

The administration order under which Mr Richmond was appointed was the

first to be made by the High Court under new Insolvency Act provisions aimed at giving troubled businesses a chance of survival instead of going into immediate liquidation.

The judge said the petitioning insurance companies, all creditors of the company, were "incensed" by what they regarded as Mr Richmond's "cavalier attitude" towards them and claimed that the £57,500 he obtained for the immediate sale of the company was a gross undervalue.

They also sought an order that Mr Richmond should pay compensation to Charney Davies Ltd for the alleged loss sustained because of his conduct.

Dismissing the allegations, the judge said the insurance companies had failed to establish that Mr Richmond realized less than the fair value of the business.

"Mr Richmond was called upon to dispose of the business in highly unfavourable circumstances," the judge

said. "He had to conclude a deal before the business fell apart. He had a very weak hand."

The judge said Mr Richmond had not acted negligently or with undue haste. He could not fault Mr Richmond's judgment that, if he did not sell Charney Davies Ltd by January 31, 1987, the brokers and the rest of the staff would walk out because he had no money to pay their wages and he would have to close the business.

The price he obtained was "far below" what the creditor insurance companies expected, but it enabled Mr Richmond to discharge his obligations to the employees and provide enough funds to enable a liquidator to pay preferential creditors in full.

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taut but gathered into rich tucks and pleats (an indication of how

much of it those determined craftsmen saw fit to use). For all

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150 من الأصل

Campbell Soup to sell five European food businesses

By COLIN CAMPBELL

CAMPBELL Soup is putting up for sale five of its food businesses in Europe, which include a number of trading companies in Britain and Ireland.

Mr Ted Glover, head of Campbell Foods Europe, says the five businesses have annual sales of more than \$200 million, of which the British-Irish element accounts for \$120 million.

No profit figures for the individual divisions and no indication of expected prices Campbell wants have been given.

Campbell says it hopes that its 3,200 British staff will be

absorbed by their new owners.

The companies for sale include Campbell Seafood Division, which also operates in Belgium, the British vegetable division of Campbell Foods in Hemel Hempstead, Campbell Irish Foods and Mallow Foods in Ireland.

Three of the companies were acquired by Campbell in 1988 when it took over Freshbake Foods Group.

Mr Glover said Campbell had decided to back down from its trading companies which had volatile earnings in order to concentrate on value-added activities. Campbell retains British interests, includ-

ing its frozen convenience division with annual sales of £100 million, the traditional Campbell's Soup operations, and a chilled foods division.

"The sale of the five food businesses will allow more management time and capital to be put behind what we hold on to," Mr Glover added.

The British vegetable division claims a 20 per cent share of the market in frozen green vegetables, and has a 25 per cent interest in one of Europe's largest vegetable processing facilities in Grimby.

Irish Foods is the largest frozen vegetable processor in Ireland with a 42 per cent

share of the market. Mallow Foods has a 25 per cent share of the European market in dried peas.

Goldman Sachs was retained four weeks ago by Campbell to prepare selling briefs and to line up a number of interested buyers.

Campbell will still have annual British sales of £170 million after its divestments, and says the objective of the sales is "to set the group on a new course and deliver improved financial performance."

Other divisions for sale include D Lazzaroni in Italy, the biscuit maker.

B&C to offer new plan to creditors

By NEIL BENNETT

BRITISH & Commonwealth, the troubled financial services group, is in a race against time to present new reconstruction proposals to its bankers, after its original draft was rejected this week.

SG Warburg, the company's adviser, hopes to have a new plan to give to B&C's creditors within 10 days. The reorganization needs to be agreed by the end of June when a set of interest payments become due.

The merchant bank has been forced to withdraw proposals which called for holders of B&C's £700 million of senior debt to take a 25 per cent writedown. Yesterday the company, whose chief executive is Mr John Ginn, stressed the proposals were only an initial draft, and alterations were always intended. It is clear the changes will be more radical than B&C originally hoped.

There remains a difference of opinion between B&C's 203 senior lenders over the future for the company. While some are prepared to see some debt written down to allow the company to arrange a new disposal programme, others creditors are unwilling to make any concessions while there are still funds available for subordinate debt holders. The other lenders, particularly the cumulative redem-



Race against time: John Ginn, chief executive

able preference share holders, may still force the company into administration by demanding repayment. B&C has said only senior creditors would receive repayments if it is wound up, but some believe a break-up operation would raise all but £100 million of

the company's £1.36 billion total debt. B&C executives believe it will take until October to dispose of the merchant banking, business and "B&C" money broken, now both of which are for sale. They should raise at least £400 million.

Venture Plant interim loss

By OUR CITY STAFF

VENTURE Plant Group, the plant-hire company, which came to the USM in December, 1988, has axed its interim dividend after it slid into the red. The company made a pre-tax loss of £241,000 in the six months to end-March, compared with a profit of £378,000. This follows last month's profits warning, which saw the share price halve.

Last time's interim dividend was 1.25p. There is a 1p loss per share, against earnings

of 2.3p. Turnover grew by 32 per cent to £5.04 million, with about 40 per cent of this relating to piling which has held up well. The company is not heavily exposed to housebuilding.

Mr Bob Drinkwater, the chairman, said the market for general plant-hire has been difficult, particularly in south and south-east England and this, combined with high interest rates, has resulted in the disappointing performance.

Mr Drinkwater said action is

being taken to restore group profitability and reduce the high level of gearing.

The company has closed two smaller loss-making depots, which resulted in about 30 redundancies. Positive results are already starting to come through and "the company is profitable at the moment."

The board will review the final dividend, depending on the outcome of the year. The shares fell 1p to 19p on the news.

Shaftesbury slides to £194,000

By MATTHEW BOND

SHARES in Shaftesbury, the West End property group, fell 11p to 150p as the company unveiled interim pre-tax profits sharply lower at £194,000.

In the comparable six months to March 1989 pre-tax profits were £2.75 million. There is again no interim dividend.

Although net property income rose 49 per cent to £2.2

million, interest charges almost doubled to £1.24 million. A further £1.05 million of interest has been capitalized.

A £330,000 loss from associated companies also reduced group profits.

Mr Peter Levy, chairman, said: "Our investment portfolio represents over 80 per cent of our total holdings. The continuing rental growth

which it generates reflects both the good location of our investments - in particular our strong representation in London's West End - and the effect of our active policy of upgrading our portfolio."

Mr Richard Plummer, a former senior partner with Coopers & Lybrand Deloitte, joins the board as a non-executive director.

Morland 12% up at £2.38m

MORLAND, the brewer, lifted pre-tax profits 12.5 per cent to £2.38 million and raised its interim dividend to 1.97p (1.575p). Core operations climbed 22.3 per cent but property dealing eased from £398,000 to £279,000.

A more liberal dividend policy is planned, Morland says, adding that the outlook for the year is inevitably affected by the general economic climate. The shares were unchanged at 343p.

Tax break for Boesky on half of \$100m penalty for fraud

FROM JOHN DURIE IN NEW YORK

MR IVAN Boesky, the convicted securities fraudster, was granted a tax deduction for half of the \$100 million penalty he paid as part of his plea-bargaining agreement with the US government in 1986. It has been disclosed.

One of Mr Boesky's lawyers, Mr Charles Davidson, disclosed the deduction in court as Mr Boesky was giving evidence in the trial of another former Wall Street arbitrageur, John Mulheren.

Under US law, fines cannot be deducted, but \$50 million of Mr Boesky's \$100 million penalty was for restitution of civil liabilities, for which he could claim a tax deduction.

Michael Milken, the junk-bond pioneer who pleaded guilty last month to securities fraud, will also be able to claim a deduction for \$400 million of his \$600 million penalty.

It was also disclosed in court that Mr Boesky paid his \$50 million fine with shares in Cambrian and General Securities. The 23 per cent stake in the British mutual fund was handed to the US Securities and Exchange Commission, which acknowledged that the shares were worth only \$37 million a year after the deal with Mr Boesky.

As the terms of the penalty were revealed, the presiding judge in the

Mulheren case, Judge Miriam Cedarbaum, said: "It only goes to show that the \$100 million was not really as painful or as expensive as it appears."

Mr Boesky was giving evidence publicly for the first time after acting as a government informer for the past three years, since conviction, resulting in the biggest government crackdown on Wall Street in US history.

Among Mr Boesky's victims were Mr Milken, the former Drexel Burnham Lambert executive, Marty Siegel, and Drexel Burnham Lambert, which was forced to pay \$650 million as part of its settlement with the government.

Mr Mulheren, who is charged with a range of securities violations, primarily share parking, has been the first person to take Mr Boesky on in court. His lawyer, Mr Tom Puccio, launched a strong attack on Mr Boesky's credibility and extracted admissions from Mr Boesky that he had lied to the government and the US Tax Office and had violated the law after his 1986 settlement.

Mr Boesky admitted that while serving a 19-month prison term, as part of his government settlement, he had violated prison rules. "There were a couple of chaps who did laundry there, and I gave them a few quarters to do my laundry,"

he said. Mr Boesky denied having paid bribes to prison officials for special consideration, saying: "That's an outrageous and malicious accusation, sir."

Mr Boesky stopped short of implicating Mr Mulheren in the offences alleged against him by not saying that Mr Mulheren had received and acted on inside information or manipulated share prices for Mr Boesky knowingly.

The US District Attorney alleges that Mr Mulheren received inside tips from Mr Boesky and knowingly held shares for him to allow Mr Boesky to minimize his tax return and meet minimum capital requirements for stockbroking firms.

Mr Boesky on many occasions appeared uncertain of details of some of his deals. However, he said that he remembered "very well" a trade that he did in March 1986 with Mr Mulheren that was, he said, "designed to repay an obligation Mr Mulheren's firm had to our firm," money owed as a result of illegal trades.

Mr Boesky put his net wealth in 1986, just prior to pleading guilty, at "less than \$1 billion and more than \$100 million."

At the time of his settlement his lawyers said that he was nearly bankrupt, but, Mr Boesky, questioned on the issue, said that he could not remember how his money appeared to have been dissipated.

Why the markets may have discounted Labour's vision



KENNETH FLEET

Labour's policy document, *Looking to the Future*, is not likely to frighten the children. It may not even wake them up. But it does bring into sharper focus the New Model Labour Party, which Neil Kinnock hopes to lead to victory in the next general election.

Although the election may still be two years away, the Government is protected by a big majority and the Conservative cause is by no means lost. Labour, according to the public opinion polls, is electable. Labour policies are therefore part of the market equation.

The moderates who lead the party have embraced the market economy, though less than wholeheartedly. Contrast the city of the West German Social Democratic Party when it saw the light in 1959 - "Markets where possible, planning where necessary" - with Labour's - "Business, where appropriate; Government where necessary." They could hardly do less when central planning and State ownership are being abandoned by Socialists and Communists almost everywhere.

Labour's economic goals are in keeping with its desire for "a partnership economy": stable and balanced economic growth; a reasonable equilibrium in the balance of payments; the control of inflation; and the highest possible levels of skilled and rewarding employment.

Who would not wish for "a stable economic framework" in which an enlightened government pursued "a policy of sustained and balanced growth?"

These anodyne statements are not, of course, the real market tests. Inflation, public spending and taxation are.

Labour, says the policy document, will not "tolerate" high inflation and wherever inflation pressures appear they will be tackled by "a package of measures" - not the one Tory weapon of interest rates.

Credit expansion would be curbed but there would not be a statutory incomes policy. "Nationalized industries' prices would be controlled and the practices of other monopolies checked. Labour looks to membership of the European Monetary System to bring down both inflation and interest rates.

But is the commitment to stable prices as firm as the policy document would have us believe? A combination of lower interest rates, a lower exchange rate, increased government borrowing and a national minimum

wage, which Labour wants, is an instant formula for higher prices. The question of priorities would then arise. Another, unofficial strand in Labour Party thinking accepts "there may be reason to be concerned" when inflation rises above 20 per cent, "when there is danger of hyper-inflation, the breakdown of the use of money, and a focus of political attention on inflation."

But when inflation is below 10 per cent "these dangers do not exist, and the control of inflation should receive relatively low priority." If the good intentions are subverted, which school of policy will have its way, I wonder.

On public spending, Labour's official words are also sweet. "We will not spend, nor will we promise to spend, more than Britain can afford."

Some expensive commitments are in place: updating child benefit to make up for reductions since 1987, linking pensions to the higher of prices and earnings, and improved public sector pay, to name but three.

Without the proceeds of privatization sales (£5 billion at present), and with the costs of rising unemployment, the present budget surplus would vanish.

Over the next 10 years, buying back water "at a fair market price" would add more than £30 billion (at November 1989 prices) to the public sector accounts.

John Smith, the Shadow Chancellor, whom everyone likes and would like to believe is really in charge, is set on borrowing to finance investment. That will give the gilded market pause for thought and probably limit Labour's scope to bring down interest rates.

Taxation, Labour promises, will be fairer, with "contributions" based on ability to pay.

The party is looking to income tax rates at the lower end below 20 per cent. There would be several higher income bands, culminating in a maximum rate of 50 per cent.

By abolishing the ceiling on employees' National Insurance Contributions, the top rate for the higher paid would in fact rise to 60 per cent. A surcharge on investment income might add another 40 per cent.

Looking to the Future is not a revolutionary document. It is barely radical. Reasonably enough, it is short on the kind of detail calculated to raise the noise level when election manifestos come to be written and battle is joined.

The difficult issue for John Smith is the market's perception of sterling. Labour clearly wants to see the pound devalued from its present level to make British industry more competitive. No sensible politician would say, in public, by how much. At this range the issue is complicated by the near certainty that the present Government, before the election, will take Britain into the exchange rate mechanism. An incoming Labour Government might well find its freedom of manoeuvre heavily restricted. Or it might find that the decision to devalue had already been pre-empted by the foreign exchange market.

The equity (and gilt) markets will also have taken a view on the probable election outcome. The City nurses a belief that Labour governments are not so bad, and are often good, for equities. This probably rests on occasional good years while Labour is in office and occasional bonanzas such as George Brown's famous freeze on office developments.

The fact is that the average rating of equities during the last two periods when Labour was in power (1964-70 and 1974-79) was lower than in the Conservative years 1970-74 and 1979 to the present. I am sure that a Labour victory would knock a hole in the equity market, in the event or before the election if the polls were pointing firmly in Mr Kinnock's direction.

The subtler point, which is well made in SG Warburg Securities' study, *The Market Under Labour*, is that markets are closely related to each other, not just by international capital flows but also by common links between individual economies and the world economy.

To a considerable degree, therefore, the British market's performance beyond 1992 is independent of the party in office.

A second and related point is that the rating of London shares relative to American shares is now close to the lows of the 1980s.

This suggests that the London market might already have discounted much of the impact of Neil Kinnock in Downing Street. Or put another way, the kind of rally in share prices we saw this month reflected a sudden downgrading of his election chances.

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The value of shares can fall as well as rise and past performance is not necessarily a guide to the future.



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Sudden reverse in futures drags share prices lower

earnings as being far below Wall Street's estimates. Adobe sank 15% to 34% in over-the-counter trading. IBM, a member of the Dow 30, was one of the most active issues, dropping 1 1/4 to 117 1/2. Selling also came from short-covering before the weekend. (Reuters)

Year	Percentage (%)
1993	100
1994	150
1995	200
1996	120
1997	100

price lower in order to cover his position.

Grand Metropolitan, the brewing, hotels and food retailing group, continued to reel from the news that the

Midland	11.01	11.01
TS	10.53	10.53
TS	10.53	10.53
NorthWest	10.63	10.63
TS	10.63	10.63

HIGH INTEREST CHEQUE AC

Bank of Scotland MHC	10.45	10.97
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8.81	2,500-no max	6 mth	Local term
8.82	10,000-no max	1 mth	01-260 29
8.82	10,000-no max	1 mth	01-260 29
8.86	10,000-24,000	1 mth	01-725 10
8.86	10,000-24,000	6 mth	01-725 10

COUNTS

8.78	2,500+	none	031-442 77
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ures market as the two-week auction drew to a close on a fib note.

The FT-SE 100 series, which has been trading at healthy premium to the cash market for the past couple of weeks, suddenly went into reverse, dipping below the 2,300 level and dragging share prices lower. Trading in the equity market remained low-key with investors and market-makers unwilling to open positions before the extended weekend break. There was also some caution before trading started on Wall Street with dealers talking about a sharp opening fall on the news that one leading arbitrageur had been forced to cease trading.

But selling was easily contained and turnover remained thin with just 277 million shares traded by late afternoon. The FT-SE 100 index was 17.4 down at 2,260.80 at 2.30 pm, having fluctuated in narrow limits throughout most of the day. The FT index of 30 shares also shed 8.6 at 1,796.6. Some profit-taking was inevitable after the recent strong rally which briefly carried the market back above the 2,300 level earlier this week to its highest level for three months.

Government securities spent a mixed day before closing with falls of around 0.5%.

The threat of renationalization if the Labour Party is returned to power at the next General Election hit the water companies. Falls were recorded in Anglian, 5 1/2p to 158p, Northumbrian 5 1/2p to 163p, Northern Water 5 1/2p to 156p, Severn Trent, 3p to 134p, Southern, 2p to 131p,

Hang S

Hong Kong

THE blue-chip Hang Seng index ended strong, but off its highs on profit-taking before a three-day weekend. The Hang Seng ended in 11.49 points higher at 3,059.50 and the broader-based Hong Kong index ended 8.07 up at 2,006.98.

A broker at a British firm said: "Early buying was a follow-on from Thursday. But a lot of traders are sitting on

Month	Share Price (approx.)
May	140
Jun	180
Jul	160
Aug	170
Sep	165
Oct	175

South West, 1p to 160p, Thames, 3p to 140p, Welsh, 2p to 166p, and Yorkshire, 4p to 160p. The water package sold £28 at £1,495.

STC, the electronics and telecommunications group, jumped 14p to 270p, buoyed by reports that Fujitsu, the Japanese computer manufacturer, was still negotiating to take a large stake in its ICL subsidiary.

Euro Disneyland was a weak Disney, which owns 49 per cent of zero-coupon bond expansion of its theme parks do convertible into cash, equivalent the Euro Disney share price of

The story has been doing the rounds for sometime and there were whispers last month that the talks had broken down. The Japanese are regarded as being slow at negotiating deals. In the past, ICL has also been linked with the Italian group Olivetti, but STC has always played down suggestions that it was looking for a partner to share the heavy research and development costs involved in the business.

Eng move

good profits." Brokers said that sentiment was positive now that President Bush had supported a renewal of China's most favoured nation status - crucial to Hong Kong's re-export trade.

The Hang Seng index surged early and briefly passed 3,067.67 - the level it reached on April 9 and the highest since it plunged by 21.47 per cent on June 5, the day after

Month	Index
Dec	280
Jan	340
Feb	260
Mar	260
Apr	260
May	260

British Telecom showed signs of running out of steam, ending 7p lower at 279p as profit-taking in the wake of this week's full-year figures showing pre-tax profits up from £2.4 billion to £2.7 billion. Analysts have now upgraded their forecast for the current year to £3.1 billion, cheered by the benefits expected from recent spending cuts and restructuring.

market, falling 47p to £11. Walt of the shares, has issued \$1.5, 2005, to help finance the during the next decade. The bonds led to a 15 p cent premium to the day the bonds are issued.

Ladbroke, the betting, hotels and property group, was a weak market, falling 8p to 297p with brokers becoming increasingly concerned about the group's exposure to the US commercial property market which remains depressed.

Ladbroke has a number of developments on the eastern seaboard. Dealers say the group's position has not been helped by one big bear who has been trying to push the

s ahead 1

China launched a crackdown on pro-democracy demonstrators.

The market will be closed on Monday for a holiday.

- Frankfurt – Shares drifted lower in extremely thin trading as many investors extended Thursday's Ascension Day holiday into a long weekend. The DAX index ended 8.63 lower at 1,823.17.
- Sydney – The market

rewinding, notes and food processing group, continued to reel from the news that the group has decided not to dispose of its Alpo Petfoods business in the US. There is growing concern about the group's high level of gearing which is now nudging towards the 100 per cent level. Earlier this week, Warburg Securities cut its profit forecast for the current year by £27 million to £913 million, blaming rising interest charges.

Expected disposals, aimed at reducing the group's level of borrowings have failed to materialize and the recent "pubs-for-breweries" deal with Elders DXL has been referred to the Monopolies Commission.

Elsewhere in the drinks sector, there were falls for Allied-Lyons, 6p to 46 1/2p, Bass, 5p to £10.41, Scottish & Newcastle, 2p to 31 7/8p, and Whitbread, 4 1/2p to 41 1/2p.

Ranks Horrie McDougall failed to hold on to an early lead with this week's profits warning from the company continuing to overshadow the share price. It ended 1p cheaper at 360p after briefly touching 364p. Dealers said the early flurry had been prompted by the news that Sir James Goldsmith's Hoylake consortium had disposed of its holding of 19 million shares. The speculators are now hoping Sir James will turn his attention to RHM where he already owns a near 30 per cent stake under the name Sunningdale and is currently sitting on a paper loss. BAT finished 5p lower at 698p.

Michael Clark

1 points

ended firmer, mainly on short covering as investors bought stock that had been oversold during the week. The All-Ordinaries index ended 8.3 up at 1,479.9, slightly off its high of 1,480.4.

● **Shares** — Prices closed mixed after quiet trading as most institutions watched from the sidelines. The *Strait Times* industrial index fell 2.93 to 1,565.35. (Reuters)

HIGH INTEREST CHEQUE A/C		
Bank of Scotland 4444	10.45	10.87
Barclays		
Prime plc	9.50	9.84
Co-operative		
Ulster	7.10	7.30
City	9.40	9.60
Lloyds NCA	7.00	7.20
HSBC	9.50	9.84
Halifax		
Special Reserve	9.00	9.31
Prudential Bank of		
Scott Prov A/c	9.75	10.11
Yorkshire (Wales)		
Wexford	9.00	9.00
BUILDING SOCIETIES		
Ordinary Share	A/c	6.15 6.15
Best buy - largest socs:		
Abacus	8.50	8.90
National & Prov	10.50	10.50
Britannic	11.30	11.30
Abolition	11.55	11.55
Westland & Bng	12.99	12.99
Best buy - all socs:		
Chalfont	11.50	12.25
Carden	11.55	12.25
St Peters	12.25	12.25
Westland	12.50	12.50
Standard	12.70	12.70
Cash/Cheque Accounts:		
Halifax		
Cash		
Bank Alliance & Leicester	6.90	6.90
Yorkshire		
Anglia Plant	6.00	6.00
<i>Compiled by Chase de Wares Management - call 01</i>		
NATIONAL SAVINGS		
Ordinary A/c	5.00	5.78
Investment A/c	12.75	8.25
Income Bond	12.50	8.25
Deposit Bond	12.50	9.50
Government	7.50	7.50
Young Plan	7.50	7.50
General		
Executive (Bond)	5.01	5.01
Capital Bond	12.00	9.01
GUARANTEED INCOME BONDS		
American Life	12.80	12.80
Canterbury Life	11.25	11.25
Prudential	11.50	11.57
Chase de Wares	11.80	11.80
Prudential Life	11.00	11.60
RPI (April 98-99)		
Best Base Rate		9.4%
Personal Loan		15.0%
Credit Card		18.9%
		18.5-19%
<i>1.8% for customers below 25, best 27% of the market 2. Additions include up to £100,000 for 18-24s. 3. 18-24s. 4. Variable. 5. Annual rate. 6. 1% 1% increase on any 4, also deposit 1%.</i>		
Compiled by KAREN BUCKLE		
LARGER		
Lender		Interest Rate %
BUILDING SOCIETIES		
Chesham & Glouc.		14.40
0452 37272		
Halifax		14.60
0422 333338		
Woodwich		14.75
019 298 8000		
BANKS		
Barclays		14.70
019 980 2878		
OTHER (INSURANCE COMPANIES)		
Lawson & Green		14.45

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Hang Seng moves ahead 11 points

Hong Kong THE blue-chip Hang Seng index ended ahead, but off its highs on profit-taking before a three-day weekend. The Hang Seng ended 11.49 points higher at 3,059.50 and the broader-based Hong Kong index 8.07 up at 2,006.98.

A broker at a British firm said: "Early buying was a follow-on from Thursday. But a lot of traders are sitting on

good profits." Brokers said that sentiment was positive now that President Bush had supported a renewal of China's most favoured nation status — crucial to Hong Kong's re-export trade.

The Hang Seng index surged early and briefly passed 3,067.67 — the level it reached on April 19 and the highest since it plunged by 21.47 per cent on June 5, the day after

China launched a crackdown on pro-democracy demonstrators.

The market will be closed on Monday for a holiday.

- **Frankfurt** — Shares drifted lower in extremely thin trading as many investors extended Thursday's Ascension Day holiday into a long weekend. The DAX index ended 8.63 lower at 1,823.17.
- **Sydney** — The market

ended firmer, mainly on short covering as investors bought stock that had been oversold during the week. The All-Ordinaries index ended 8.3 up at 1,479.9, slightly off its high of 1,480.4.

● Singapore — Prices closed mixed after quiet trading as most institutions watched from the sidelines. The *Strait Times* industrial index fell 2.93 to 1,565.35. (Reader)

BUILDING SOCIETIES	
Creditfarm & Glou.	14.40
0452 372572	
Hatfield	14.80
0422 383888	
Woodhead	14.75
081 294 8000	
BANKS	
Girobank	14.70
051 986 2978	
OTHER (INSURANCE COMPANIES)	
Leamington Mortg.	14.45

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NY		
25-50K	95	Rate held to 1.10.50 Indowment Only.

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[illegible]

The prices in this section refer to Thursday's trading.

Exchange index compared with 1985 was up at 89.1 (day's range 89.0-89.1)

DOLLAR SPOT RATES

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES											
	Open	High	Low	Close	Vol		Open	High	Low	Close	Vol
FT-SE 100	2342.0	2346.0	2336.0	2345.0	27345	Three month ECU	90.80	90.85	90.75	90.80	10000
June 90	2342.0	2346.0	2336.0	2345.0	163	June 90	90.80	90.85	90.75	90.80	10000
Three Month Sterling					185500	US Treasury Bond	92-17	92-18	92-16	92-17	22100
June 90	92.03	92.05	91.99	92.02	2910	June 90	92-17	92-18	92-16	92-17	22100
Three Month Eurodollar					11200	Long Gilt	92-36	92-37	92-35	92-36	17000
June 90	91.54	91.57	91.51	91.54	2890	Japanese Govt Bond	92-00	92-01	91-99	92-00	10000
Three Month Eurodollar					23900	German Govt Bond	92-30	92-31	92-29	92-30	10000
June 90	91.59	91.59	91.58	91.58	485	June 90	92-30	92-31	92-29	92-30	10000
Three Month Euro DM					71800						
June 90	91.88	91.70	91.67	91.67	1335						

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Lenders set fixed-rate teaser for homeowners

By LINDSAY COOK, FAMILY MONEY EDITOR

A RUSH of fixed-rate mortgages up to 2.5 per cent cheaper than the standard loans offered by most lenders was launched this week. Hundreds of millions of pounds is being made available in a series of ever-more complicated schemes.

Most seem attractive to homebuyers, and to people seeking to remortgage to ease their monthly payments. But borrowers who switch may end up paying more in the long term.

Often such a flurry of fixed-rate offers heralds the easing of standard mortgage rates. The current selection are the result of a dose of electionitis and the expectation that interest rates will be brought down steadily in the run-up to the next General Election.

They are also a desperate bid by lenders to drum up business in a flat property market.

Large lenders such as the

Halifax Building Society expect standard rates to steadily fall from the current 15.4 per cent from the beginning of next year, and by two to three per cent by spring 1992.

This would be well below some of the current fixed offers, which carry penalties of up to three months' interest for early redemption.

Borrowers also need to take care when comparing the loans. The interest rates quoted do not include all the additional costs associated with such loans and even annual percentage rates, which should show the true rate, including all costs, can be misleading.

Because the fixed rate part of the mortgage is for periods of between 18 months and three years, assumptions have to be made about what the rate will be for the rest of the term. This can mean either a further fixed-rate offer or transfer to

the lender's standard mortgage rate.

Most lenders who work out the figure assume that the rest of the term will be at the fixed rate and in the case of reducing fixed rates the rate in the lowest year.

These appear to be considerably cheaper than those who calculate the apr using their standard rate for the rest of the term.

Yorkshire Building Society, which is offering a reducing fixed rate mortgage starting at 14.5 per cent in year one and reducing 1 per cent a year down to 12.5 per cent in the third year, quotes the lowest apr of all the current offers at 13.9 per cent because the rest of the term is based on the third-year figure.

Meanwhile, some of the building societies offering fixed rates of 13.95 per cent over two or three years quote aprs above 16 per cent because they use their current standard

rate for the remainder of the term in the calculations.

Also, fixed-rate loans do not offer discounts for first-time buyers or larger loans unlike many standard mortgages.

For example, all Abbey National loans over £60,000 are currently at 14.75 per cent and Lloyds Bank is offering a 2 per cent discount to first-time buyers for a year.

The best way of comparing the different rates is to find out what the monthly payments will be and what, if any, extra costs are involved.

The table on the left details the monthly interest payments for endowment mortgages, any penalties or special conditions. Insurance premiums would have to be added where interest-only loans are not available, and vary with the age of the borrower.

Most of the special offers are limited to endowment or pension loans, which add to the monthly payments for anyone transferring from a repayment mortgage.

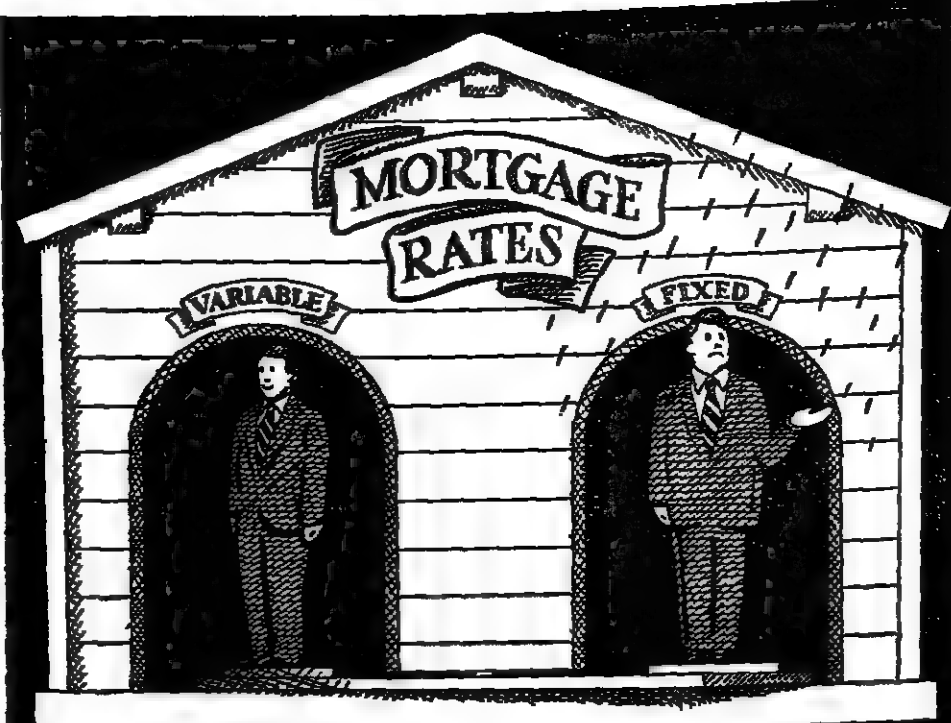
TSB will allow repayment loans and the Household Mortgage Corporation will lend on an interest-only basis, allowing the borrower to decide how they will pay back the loan at the end of the term. Cheltenham & Gloucester, which already offers interest-only loans with its standard mortgages is extending the offer to its fixed-rate product. Standard loans with C & G are already 1 per cent cheaper at 14.4 per cent for the first year.

If specific insurance policies are compulsory with the special offer loans, borrowers must find out what the premiums are and compare these, as well as the monthly interest payments, with their monthly outgoings.

First Mortgage Securities is offering a rate of 12.95 per cent over 18 months, with the option of another fixed-rate loan or its standard variable rate from December next year.

The company, which has lent £650 million to British borrowers over the last three years, expects interest rates to be at a low point in December 1991 and that customers will be able to lock in to another attractive rate for the next two or three years.

The loans are endowment only, although the premiums can be added to the mortgage for the first five years to reduce monthly outgoings. But there is a compulsory accident, sickness and unemployment package which may seem expensive for any-



Barclays scraps overdraft letters

By JON ASHWORTH

THE high cost of letters from bank managers pointing out that customers are overdrawn has long been a source of contention.

But Barclays Bank this week announced it is to become the first bank to scrap its £10 charge for these unwelcome missives.

From June 1 the bank's personal charge tariffs will be revised and Barclays will become the only one of the Big Four banks not to charge for letters and telephone calls relating to overdrafts.

It will also do away with the charge levied when one branch has to telephone the customer's own to authorize a cheque encashment.

Barclays customers who are in the red on their personal accounts will no longer pay for making deposits or withdrawals, for crossed cheques, or for direct debits or standing orders. NatWest makes no charges for these services, while Midland and Lloyds charge from 25p to 35p a time. But Barclays customers may find their overdrafts cost more as the bank is introducing a £10 monthly fee for overdrafts to replace the present quarterly system. Customers who go overdrawn by more than £50 without permission pay the charge. The fee for agreed overdrafts will vary from £3 to £6 a month, depending on the interest option chosen.

Midland and Lloyds both charge £12 to send a warning letter to customers who are overdrawn. NatWest £10 a time. But Lloyds stressed that charges for warning letters were made at the discretion of branch managers, who were unlikely to penalize customers who became overdrawn on rare occasions.

"If it is the first time someone has become overdrawn, then one is reluctant to charge them," said a Lloyds spokesman. "If they are continually doing it and know they should not be, then a charge is fair enough."

Most banks urge their customers to get in touch if they fear they may become overdrawn, even if just for a short time. A telephone call is usually sufficient, and agreed overdrafts attract a more favourable rate of interest. Barclays will continue to charge £5 for stopped cheques, £15 for returned cheques, and £10 for special presentations. The other high street banks typically charge £6 for stopped cheques, between £12 and £15 for returned cheques and between £6 and £10 for special presentations.

Lloyds pointed out that the individual charges only apply to its old-style current account. Classic account holders who become overdrawn by more than £100, the free limit allowed, pay a flat fee of £6 a month for transactions.

Children to gather parental tax bonus

By LINDSAY COOK

PARENTS will be able to be more generous to their children from next April — without risking extra tax bills.

The Inland Revenue has announced that when composite rate tax is scrapped children will be able to earn £100 in interest on money given to them by their parents without it affecting their tax position.

Currently such money can only earn £5 before tax is levied on the parents.

Money from other sources is taxed as the child's. The limit on parental money is because the Inland Revenue is concerned that parents should not use children's accounts to avoid tax on their own savings.

At current interest rates a child would be able to earn interest gross on about £800 given by parents free of tax.

Building societies are already offering children access to gross paid accounts, which

will not pay interest until after CRT is scrapped on April 6, 1991.

This week Town & Country, the building society, extended its Gross Account to children who can earn 14 per cent from the first £1 invested. The interest is paid annually on April 30 and increases with the balance in the account.

Investors can make withdrawals of up to £250 in cash without penalty and still be paid the interest gross so long as they do not close the account before April 6.

When CRT is scrapped, non-taxpayers, who include the vast majority of children, will have to sign a form declaring that their total earnings are less than their personal tax allowance. Then the building society or bank will be able to pay interest gross. Those who do not sign the declaration before the interest is paid will be able to claim back the basic rate tax after it is deducted.

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FAMILY MONEY

Investment referee blows whistle

By LINDSAY COOK

MAJOR financial institutions take too legalistic an approach to investors' complaints, said Mr Richard Youard, the investment referee, this week when presenting his first annual report.

Mr Youard is a supporter of conciliation and compromise deals, and feels that if both parties share responsibility for a mistake then they should share the loss.

However, some banks and investment groups have not accepted this view.

Of the 63 complaints received during the year, 40 have been resolved, with all but one being settled by conciliation. The one case has gone to adjudication and Mr Youard has the power to order compensation of up to £100,000.

Mr Youard said that in bigger institutions complaints were often dealt with by the compliance departments which often took "far too rigid a view."

"Some organizations seem to believe that, if their representative has not actually broken the law, the customer must automatically bear all the loss. I find this attitude extremely short-sighted."

"There is a school of thought which adheres closely to the test of legal liability and sees any other payment, i.e. an *ex gratia* payment, as a sign of weakness."

"It seems to believe that an *ex gratia* payment is simply

giving away the company's money. I suggest that this is the wrong attitude and I speak as one who has spent a lifetime in a service industry."

Even when persuaded to make an *ex gratia* payment any goodwill could still be lost. One case was resolved at the conciliation stage and the investor was so pleased with the result that he told the referee he would continue as a customer of the firm.

However, when the *ex gratia* payment arrived it was accompanied by a letter in such grudging terms that the complainant resolved to transfer his account to a competitor immediately.

"Every small shopkeeper knows the importance of goodwill. Some of the big institutions seem to have forgotten they are shopkeepers."

The commonest cause of disputes referred to Mr Youard was a misunderstanding between the company and the customer.

In some cases it was possible to find where the fault lay but often both parties agreed on what was said, but had drawn a completely different interpretation.

Mr Youard said investors should take greater care with their money. "I am astonished at how casually people pay over life savings."

He said people should not act on what they hear in the pub or over the dining table,



Cup of conciliation: Richard Youard acts as referee

warning that if a deal seemed to offer something that others did not there was likely to be a catch.

Investors should not be afraid of revealing their ignorance to salesmen. The best protection for investors was to ask lots of questions.

Mr Youard said that one thing that had struck him while handling complaints was that no financial salesmen could be described as independent as they were all trying to sell something.

"The truly independent adviser says, 'I don't think you should do anything.' There were one or two cases where the right advice was to do

'Churning' costs consumers £680m

By JON ASHWORTH

LIFE and pensions salesmen who encourage clients to cancel policies for no good reason are costing consumers as much as £680 million a year in lost contributions.

And banks and building societies are often the worst offenders, according to a trade association which has compiled a list of misleading practices.

Such "churning" of policies mostly affects home-buyers with an endowment mortgage, who are encouraged to take out a new endowment plan when they move house.

Endowments have little value in the early years since most, if not all of the premiums, go in commission to salesmen and intermediaries.

The National Federation of Independent Financial Advisers, which has been working with the Scottish Independent Intermediaries Association in an effort to pin down problem areas, has drawn-up a five-point plan to make the public more aware of churning.

It proposes that application forms would carry the wording: "Are you planning to surrender a policy to take out this one; if so, why?"

Another way to tackle the problem would be to bring mortgage sales under the Financial Services Act, with its stricter guidelines rather than the Consumer Credit Act.

Mr Brian Cochrane of the SIIA accused banks and building societies of using their power as lenders to encourage clients to cash in perfectly good policies.

The Securities and Investments Board, which has seen the report, said new legislation would have to be passed before mortgages could be brought under the FSA. This was a matter for the Department of Trade and Industry.

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BRIEFINGS

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■ Friends Provident and Bupa have teamed up to offer a private health scheme which combines medical and permanent health cover in one package. The scheme, called Health Care, offers clients and their families a 35 per cent discount on the basic Bupa subscriptions. It is open to individuals under 55 years

who take out a Friends Provident private health insurance contract for a minimum benefit of £25 a week.

■ Irish Life has launched a combined private health insurance and dread disease insurance policy called Guaranteed Income Provider. It gives financial protection against illness and accidents and can be linked to 5 major illnesses including stroke, heart attack and kidney failure.

■ Allied Dunbar has launched a unit-linked investment bond with a bonus built in for savers prepared to invest for the next 10 years. Anyone who takes out a bond in the next two months will qualify for a bonus worth 5 per cent of the fund value at the turn of the century.

■ Capel-Cure-Myers has launched a new personal equity plan which allows investors to pick their own shares or

choose a managed fund. The 1990/91 PEP offers a choice of four unit trusts as well as a mini-portfolio of up to six actively managed shares. The self-select plan is a third option. A maximum of £3,000 can be invested in the unit trust side, while £6,000 can go directly into shares. It costs £35 to join the pep, and annual charges vary from 0.5 per cent to 1.5 per cent.

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SECRET

FAMILY MONEY

Jon Ashworth finds a new trust for brave

Prudential dips a toe in the Pacific market

HONG Kong, New Zealand and Australia are some of the last places in the world cautious investors would choose to place their money. The shadow of China is looming over the first, while economic fears have cast doubts over the others.

So it may surprise investors to learn that Prudential Holborn's new Pacific Markets unit trust, which goes on offer next week, plans to put 60 per cent of its money into those three markets. The bulk - 40 per cent - will go into Hong Kong, with 15 per cent to Australia and 5 per cent to New Zealand.

The group plans to actively manage the fund, and the percentages will change, but the split suggests that Pacific Markets will not be for everyone.

Mr Alan Wren, Prudential Holborn's chief executive, agreed that the new trust - the first to be launched by the group in more than a year - will be too risky for the majority of investors.

Nevertheless, he expects it to attract up to £25 million during the three-week offer period, and says there is a strong case for investing in the region.

"This will have the highest risk profile of all our 15 funds," said Mr Wren, who recommends investors put no more than 10 per cent of their portfolios into the new trust.

The Hong Kong market is looking cheap, and Australia



'Strong case for investing 10 per cent of your portfolio': Alan Wren, chief executive of Prudential Holborn

is not as bad as many people think. Once people realize the market is undervalued, it could bounce.

Prudential had planned to launch the new trust several months ago, but postponed it after events in Beijing's Tiananmen Square. A second attempt later in the year was scuppered after "Grey Monday" sent investors running for cover.

One of Prudential's biggest

launches, the International Smaller Companies unit trust, took in £220 million from investors just days before the 1987 stockmarket crash. Investors would only just be breaking even today, and Mr Wren admits the group's fund performance has not been spectacular in the last three years.

"Our investment performance was good in the first three years, but has gone off

the boil in the last couple of years. It has been disappointing," Mr Wren said part of the reason for investing in smaller companies was for their long-term potential, and it was wrong to expect short-term gains.

Hong Kong and Australasia aside, the trust will invest in Thailand, Malaysia and Singapore. About 10 per cent will be held in cash. There are no plans to invest in Taiwan or

South Korea, which are seen as too expensive.

The new trust will be managed by Mr Hugh Williams, who has been looking after the Far Eastern markets for Prudential's life and pensions funds. Pacific Markets has an initial charge of 6 per cent, and an annual management fee of 1 per cent. Minimum investment is £1,000, and a discount of up to 2 per cent is available during the launch period.

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DIY for top earners only

DO-IT-YOURSELF personal pensions which allow investors to choose exactly where to place their money have become a flavour of the month (writes Jon Ashworth).

But they are not as new as some investors are being led to believe, and a quick look at the competition could save hundreds of pounds in costs.

Pointon York, the financial services group, joined the DIY club with its self-invested personal pension this week. But it hailed the launch as the first of its kind, apparently overlooking an almost identical scheme from Guinness Mahon two months ago.

Pension 101 is described as a scheme that will, for the first time, allow professionals, executives and the self-employed the advantages of controlling their own pension fund. It adds that self-invested pension schemes have only previously been available to company owner-managers.

In fact, Pension 101 is at least fifth in a chain of schemes offered by groups like Sun Life, Albany Life and the Life Association of Scotland

as well as Guinness Mahon. Prudential Holborn also announced this week it will launch a self-invested personal pension in December.

Mr Geoffrey Pointon, managing director of Pointon York, agreed the scheme is not new, but said it has more features than similar plans. He said he did not think investors would be misled into thinking Pension 101 is unique.

Like Guinness Mahon's scheme, Pension 101 offers clear charges and a full investment choice. But it is more expensive on almost every count. Setting up the scheme costs £1,500 - £400 more than Guinness Mahon - and the annual management charge of £400 is dearer by £50.

Guinness Mahon makes no charge for trustee meetings, valuations and policy reviews, while Pointon charges £50 or £100 for them. Pointon charges £25 per transaction, including transfers from other schemes. Guinness Mahon charges more - £31 or £36 depending on whether they relate to Britain or abroad.

Guinness Mahon offers

investors a shell for their pension, allowing them to choose their own investment advisers. Pointon York goes further by offering its own investment advice, but customers pay more. The charge for full discretionary management is 0.5 per cent on the first £250,000 invested. Standard dealing charges apply to one-off deals.

After all the costs are taken into account, at least £3,000 needs to be invested in the scheme before the charges become worth paying. The argument for using charges, even though they appear expensive, is that they are better than commission which can take far more out of contributions over the years.

Pointon expects most interest from accountants, solicitors and brokers. Albany Life introduced a self-investment scheme in 1977 and modified it for personal pensions when new legislation came in last year. Mr Malcolm Kerr, Albany's marketing director, said it appealed to sportsmen and other high earners, and is not for average investors.

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Portfolio PLATINUM

For readers who may have missed a copy of The Times this week, we repeat below the week's Portfolio price changes (today's are on page 23).

No	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Total
1	+7	+4	+6	+4	+4			
2	+7	+8	+8	+3	+3			
3	+8	+4	+5	+3	+4			
4	+6	+4	+5	+4	+4			
5	+7	+5	+8	+4	+3			
6	+6	+7	+7	+2	+8			
7	+8	+5	+7	+6	+5			
8	+6	+5	+7	+3	+3			
9	+6	+8	+5	+3	+5			
10	+9	+8	+6	+8	+4			
11	+9	+5	+6	+5	+5			
12	+7	+3	+7	+5	+4			
13	+8	+3	+7	+7	+6			
14	+7	+6	+9	+3	+1			
15	+7	+8	+7	+3	+2			
16	+6	+3	+8	+4	+4			
17	+7	+5	+8	+4	+4			
18	+8	+4	+7	+4	+5			
19	+5	+8	+9	+2	+3			
20	+6	+5	+7	+3	+2			
21	+6	+5	+5	+5	+3			
22	+7	+8	+7	+4	+2			
23	+9	+4	+6	+7	+4			
24	+5	+6	+8	+2	+1			
25	+9	+6	+5	+5	+3			
26	+7	+4	+7	+3	+3			
27	+7	+5	+9	+6	+5			
28	+6	+8	+7	+3	+2			
29	+7	+5	+5	+5	+3			
30	+6	+8	+7	+2	+2			
31	+7	+3	+6	+3	+4			
32	+5	+7	+7	+3	+1			
33	+7	+3	+7	+6	+6			
34	+7	+4	+5	+4	+2			
35	+6	+4	+6	+5	+2			
36	+8	+3	+7	+6	+4			
37	+6	+6	+8	+4	+2			
38	+7	+4	+8	+7	+7			
39	+8	+4	+6	+5	+3			
40	+8	+4	+6	+6	+4			
41	+8	+5	+5	+3	+2			
42	+7	+3	+5	+4	+5			
43	+8	+4	+7	+5	+5			
44	+5	+7	+9	+3	+1			

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FAMILY MONEY

Roy Cannon finds a free lunch without travelling

Dining out on the taxman



Bon appetit: subsidized canteen facilities are the key to tax-free meals

THERE is such a thing as a free lunch and the Inland Revenue has recently extended the number of people who can dine for free, with no subsequent tax bill.

Under Section 155(5) of the Taxes Act 1988 lunch can be given to employees. And by a new concession where an employer does not have canteen facilities on his premises, staff can still have the tax-free lunch by using any canteen where meals are provided for all the staff.

What is important is that the employee does not have to be travelling on his employer's business to get this favourable tax treatment, he or she gets it simply by carrying on his or her job in the normal way. All that is needed is that the employer provides facilities for all members of the staff by way of free or subsidized meals in a canteen or in other facilities on the employer's premises or, now in any canteen.

By providing similar facilities for all members of the

staff, on a reasonable scale, the door is opened for the higher paid staff and directors to get free meals which would otherwise be chargeable to tax.

But employers cannot have a fancy dining room, call it a canteen, and let the directors and the managerial staff eat free alone. They have to provide similar facilities for all staff.

This special treatment of employees for whom canteen facilities are provided is in sharp contrast to the short treatment given to other taxpayers who try to get tax relief for meals when working.

Employees of small firms where it would not be possible to have a canteen are able to receive free of tax a meal voucher provided it does not

exceed the magnificent sum of 15p a working day. Above this limit which has not been changed in more than 20 years they are taxed.

The self-employed can fare even worse. In 1975 a self-employed carpenter claimed the additional cost of his lunch when he was working on a site which was too distant for him to return home for lunch. He

estimated the difference in cost between eating at home and buying lunch near the site was 30p a day. The General Commissioners agreed this to be in order, but the Revenue appealed to the High Court and there the judge held that the excess was not a proper deduction for tax purposes.

Later, the then Financial Secretary to the Treasury made a statement in Parliament that "in practice a self-employed person may be allowed modest expenditure on meals consumed in the course of a travelling occupation or an occasional business journey outside the normal pattern."

This Revenue attitude towards meals for the self-employed still exists today, and the new breed of self-employed who offer their services to businesses for short periods in computers and other technical services are finding it difficult to get tax relief on travelling expenses as well as meals when working away from home.

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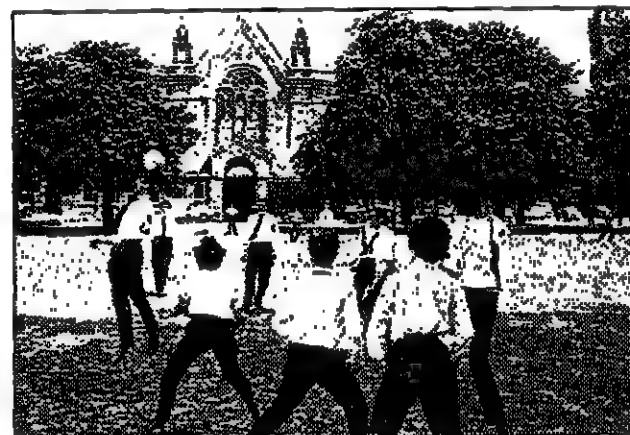
By CONAL GREGORY

MORE parents than ever are sending their children to independent schools but despite this renewed interest in the private sector, a scheme to help with the fees is not being fully taken up. About 4,000 subsidized places at public schools are still available.

The North-east has a significant number of subsidized places that have not been taken up and the Headmasters' Conference, which represents 230 independent schools, is to carry out an investigation into why more parents do not apply.

The Assisted Places Scheme came into operation at the start of the 1981/82 school year and aims to provide subsidized places to bright children from less well off families at quality independent schools. This month Mr John MacGregor, Education Secretary, announced a further 16 schools had joined the scheme for the new academic year which starts this September, making 294 in England.

Currently more than 33,260 places — rising to 35,000 by the mid 1990s — are on offer



Dulwich delights: assisted places make them possible

plus 2,600 in Scotland. In 1988/89, the average tuition fee was £2,591 but there are certainly differences which should not act as a disincentive. Charterhouse School, Godalming, a participating member in the Scheme, costs £6,975 while Eilesmere College, Shropshire, is £6,540.

The parental contribution to the fees depends upon a family's "relevant income." This is the gross amount from all sources including unearned income from dependant children, less £1,000 for each child

in 1989/90, other than the assisted place holder. The calculation excludes child benefit, mobility allowance, some other social security benefits and the amount of any student award.

The "relevant income" is usually assessed for the tax year before the school year in question (thus school year 1990/91 will be based on tax year 1989/90). Parents are required to provide their P60 or Schedule D or E tax assessment. For the current year if income was £7,584 or

below, the parents would have to make no contribution. Above this sum, a sliding scale operates so that parents with a relevant income of £10,000 would pay £327 if they had one child being educated under the scheme and £246 each for two children. At £14,000 the contribution would be £1,224 for one child at £18,000 the parents would pay £2,484 for one child.

In 1988/89 the average parent paid £545 towards fees and received £2,121 in remission. For the next year parents with a relevant income of £8,034 pay nothing. Above this it is 9 per cent of income up to £8,735, 12 per cent for £8,735-£9,449, 15 per cent for £9,449-£10,865, 21 per cent for £10,865-£13,043, 24 per cent for £13,043-£15,885 and 33 per cent above £15,885.

If a family has two assisted places, the contribution falls. On the lowest income threshold only 6.75 per cent is paid, rising to 24.75 per cent above £15,885. More generous terms are available for three places per family. Details are available from: Independent Schools Information Service, 56 Buckingham Gate, London SW1E 6AG.

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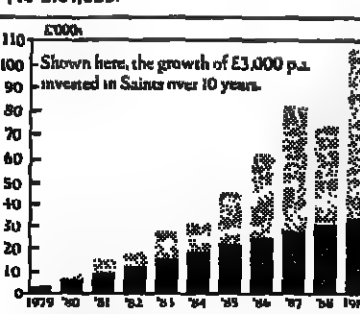
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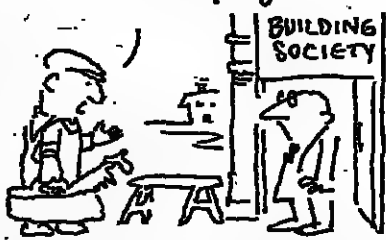
By JON ASHWORTH

THERE is more to taking out a mortgage than the monthly payments, as many first-buyers have discovered to their cost. Legal charges aside, buildings and contents insurance can add hundreds of pounds to the annual bill.

Most banks and building societies allow borrowers to choose their own insurance, as long as it comes up to their standards. But some make a one-off charge to insure against the cover being inadequate.

One reader complained to Family Money that her bank would not let her change her insurance policy, even though a Citizens Advice Bureau had suggested it as a way of cutting monthly payments. She was also concerned that paying the insurance in monthly instalments rather than a one-off premium might add a great

Just give me £25 and I'll let someone else fix your door.



deal of interest to the bill. All leading banks said borrowers were free to choose their own buildings cover. But The Consumers' Association has criticized building societies in particular for limiting their customers' choices.

Miss Jane Vass, research manager of TCA's Money Group, said the market had become dominated by a cartel

of lenders. "Many allow borrowers to choose their insurance, but charge up to £25 for this. Some even make an annual charge, which we think is unfair. People can save several hundred pounds by shopping around."

TCA has been calling for free choice on building insurance for some time. The Office of Fair Trading is also looking at whether borrowers are losing out. The Halifax Building Society said its borrowers are free to choose buildings insurance, but charges £5 to insure against the risk that the cover may not be adequate. Nationwide Anglia charges £25 as an "administration" fee to those who wish to select their own cover.

The Leeds Permanent also charges £25, including £5 for the same style of contingency insurance used by the Halifax. "It is mainly an administrative charge to help us check out

the quality of the insurer," said a spokesman.

NatWest charges £15 to pay for similar checks, but Lloyds, Midland and Barclays do not. A NatWest spokesman said: "We don't insist that building insurance is taken through us, but charge a one-off fee for administration." Lloyds only insists buildings insurance is arranged via its agent on some special offers.

Some borrowers are concerned that they have to pay a large amount in interest when buildings insurance is paid monthly instead of in a single premium. The Halifax said interest is charged on the reducing balance throughout the year, but this is typically no more than £6. The average buildings insurance premium is £120, it added. Lloyds divides the annual premium by 12, and charges no extra for monthly payments.

LETTERS

A convenience — but convenient to whom?

From Ms J Goldsmith

Sir, When cash dispensers were first put in by high street banks they were seen as a convenience to the customer. I wonder if this is still the case.

Not so long ago I could withdraw the odd £5 note. This soon became a minimum of £10 — not so convenient at the end of the month when funds are low. Now my local Barclays cashpoint will only issue multiples of £20. What is to stop them pushing this up to £50 next week?

Apart from lack of funds to make these withdrawals, especially if standing orders are imminent from the same account, why should we be forced to withdraw more than we want, especially late at

night when every mugger seeing you use a Barclays till, knows you will have at least £20 on you?

Also the increasing use of £20 notes in these tills is far from convenient if you only want cash for small purchases. A constant request from shop cashiers today is "have you got anything smaller?" so why cannot we have a choice in the notes we receive?

Bank customers should perhaps keep in mind that they should be calling the tune. Yours faithfully, MS J. GOLDSMITH, 37 Carew Court, Basinghall Gardens, Sutton, Surrey.

Barclays says a few of its dispensers issue just £20 notes in

Beware cash dispenser card thefts

From Mrs S.G. Suter

Sir, Following your article about Emma Hill's Abbeylink cash machine card I refer to Mrs Joan Ackland's happier experience with Marks and Spencer.

Mrs Ackland reported that when her storecard was used fraudulently to the amount of £2,000 it was a loss she was not expected to bear.

May I point out that under

the terms of the Consumer Credit Act the holder of a credit card is only responsible for the first £50 in such circumstances.

Under current legislation the same is not true of cash machine cards.

Yours faithfully, MRS S. G. SUTER, 114 Northampton Road, Earls Barton, Northampton.

French freeze cheque cheats

From Dr R.J. Coullas

Sir, Your correspondent Mr Davis (Family Money, May 12) points out how much easier it is to pay by cheque in France and asks why the normal cheque system cannot be more widely used here. The reasons lie in the difference between our two societies.

If a cheque drawn on a French bank bounces, then the depositor has 30 days in which to remedy the situation and in the meantime the account is frozen.

If the account is not redeemed or if a second cheque is bounced within 12 months, then the depositor will be forbidden to use any bank account in France for one year.

As all accounts are registered with the Banque de France this is an enforceable ban.

In addition all French citizens carry an identity card and foreigners a passport which may have to be shown when paying by cheque.

You make your choice (of society) and you pay your money. Credit card or cheque.

Yours faithfully,

RJ COULTAS,

Applegarth,

Delville Avenue,

Keyworth,

Nottingham.

Lack of logic

From Mr Andrew Martin

Sir, Can anyone explain the Government's logic in giving tax relief on medical insurance for the retired over-60s but at the same time retaining it as taxable benefit for those over 60 still working possibly on similar incomes?

Yours faithfully, ANDREW MARTIN, Bailey House, Bartlett Road, Horsham, West Sussex.

Letters are welcomed, but The Times regrets it cannot give individual replies or advice. No legal responsibility can be accepted for advice or statements in these columns.

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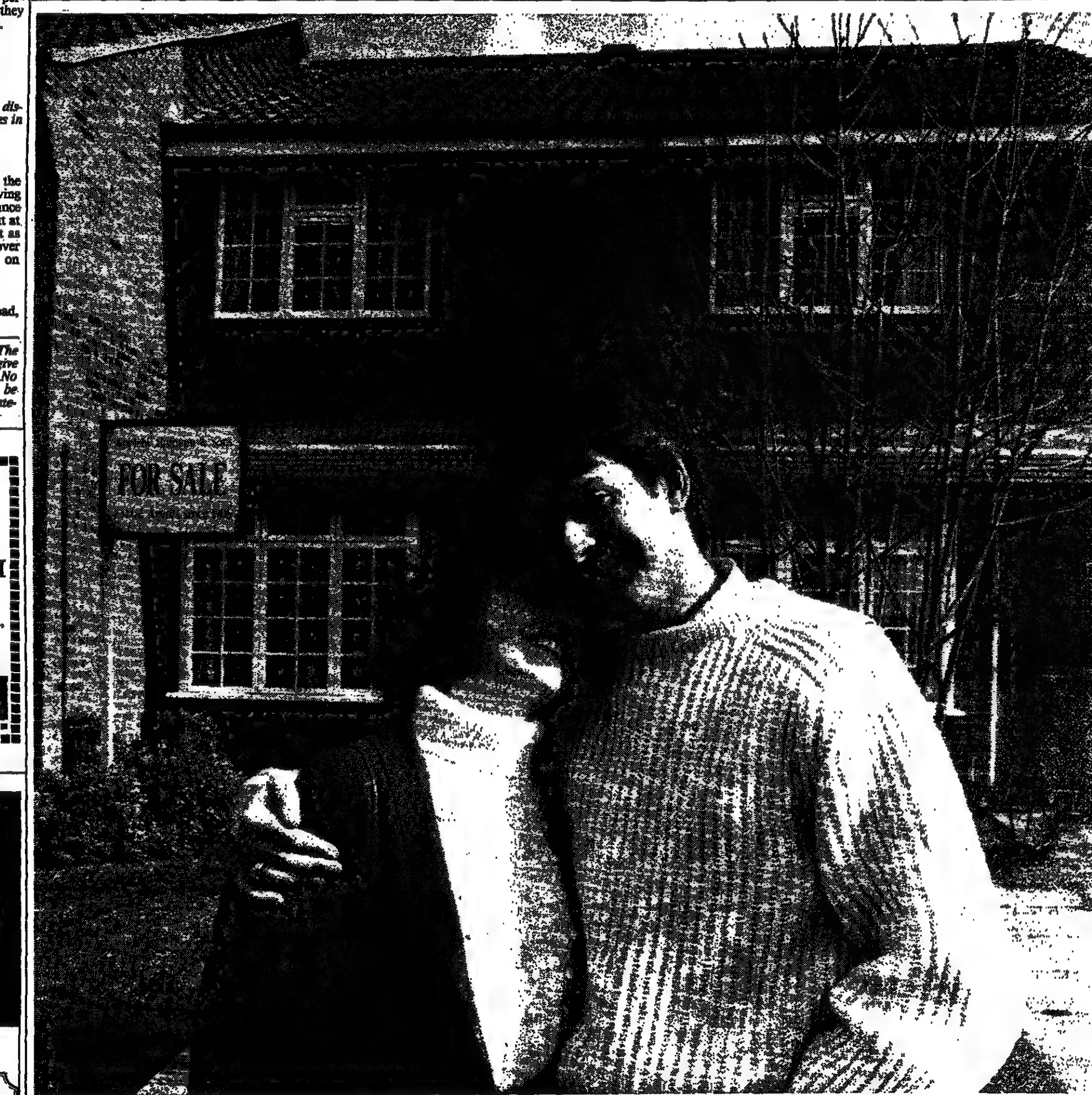
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Docklands prays for the sun to shine

As Tobacco Dock shopping centre faces a tenants' revolt
Matthew Bond discovers why the development is banking on this holiday weekend

THIS is a crucial weekend for London's Docklands. If the sun shines, the area's only shopping centre faces a brighter future. If it does not, a revolt by angry tenants threatens a £50 million attempt to bring a Covent Garden life-style to East London.

"At the moment we can fairly be described as a sunshine scheme," says Mr Laurie Cohen, managing director of Tobacco Dock Developments. When the sun is shining, Tobacco Dock looks magnificent. More importantly, when the sun shines, the odd coachload of curious tourists boosts the still limited number of Londoners who regularly use the centre.

Mr Cohen is aware that he needs more sunny days and will be hoping for three in a row this Bank Holiday weekend. A year after the converted tobacco and sheepskin warehouse started a new life as a specialist shopping centre, offering a mixture of shops, bars and restaurants, Tobacco Dock is suffering a critical shortage of shoppers.

It could also be about to face a critical shortage of shops. Earlier this week about a third of Tobacco Dock's tenants padlocked their doors and walked out in protest at the lack of customers. Some are certain to return, at least eight are not. They have shut their doors for the last time. Within the confines of the 19th century brick-built vaults the tenants are in revolt.

For a man who had only 35 tenants to start with, Mr Cohen is surprisingly sanguine about the walkout. "We feel that the main revolt is crumbling fast and that the tenants were very badly advised in the first place."

Mr Cohen readily concedes there are problems at the moment — with 12 of the developments shops closed by late morning yesterday, he can do little else.

He knows, as do his remaining tenants, that all retail is going through a bad time as

high interest rates curb consumer spending. The sort of non-essential specialty shopping that Tobacco Dock offers is particularly hard hit.

On top of this, there is the inevitable problem of persuading London shoppers to head east, rather than west.

"We realize there are problems in retail at the moment and Tobacco Dock could take 18 months to two years to mature. Having said that, we have got tenants that are doing very well, with sales close to 95 per cent of target. But we have some smaller ones that are not doing well."

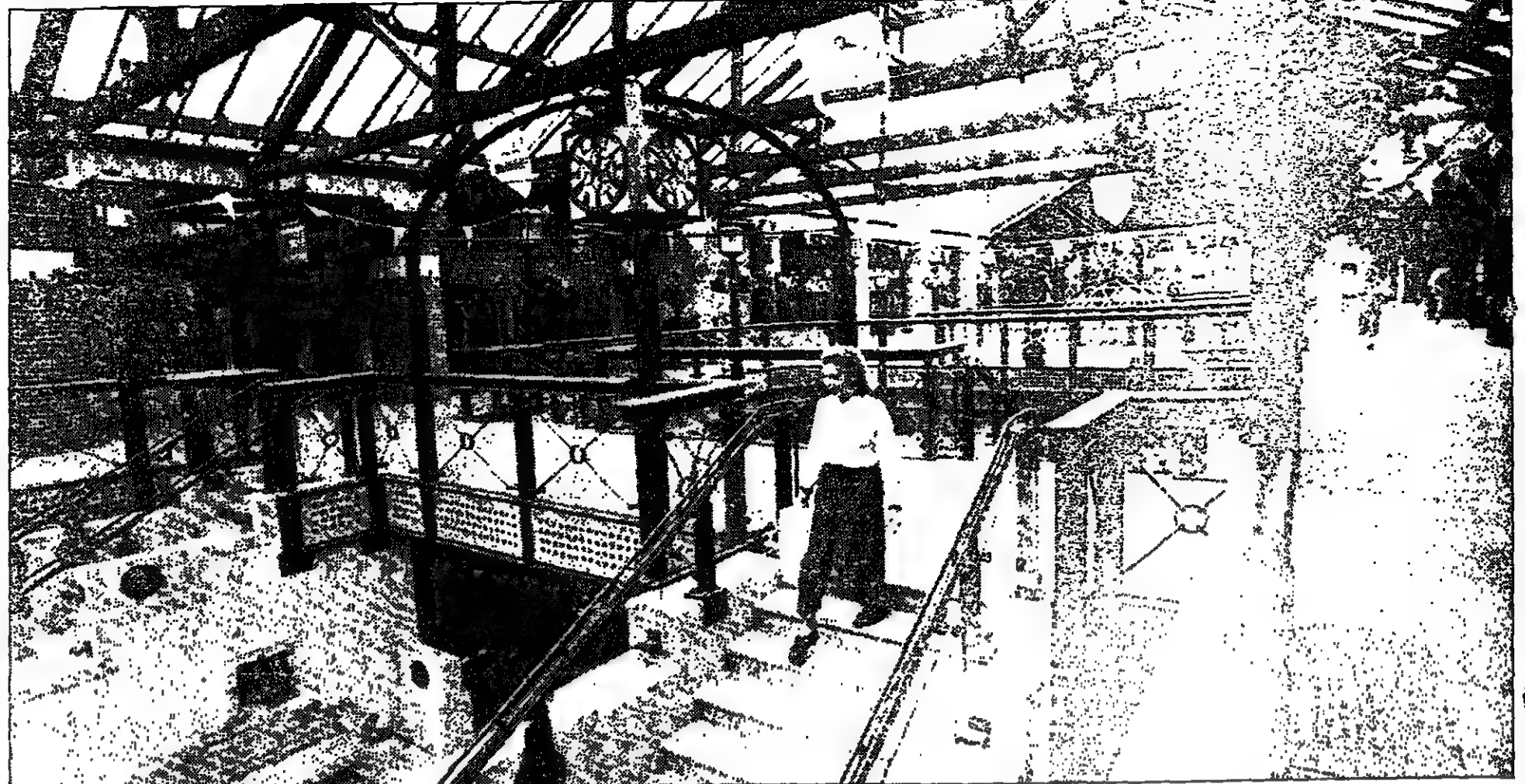
Mr Cohen says Tobacco Dock has not pushed tenants for rents, which are about a fifth of the level of the West End. Nor have the precise terms of the retailers' leases been enforced, despite clear breaches.

The problem he believes lies only with a small number of tenants, many of whom were new to retailing. "Some of them are taking a very amateurish stand. Some tenants said they had financial problems. But they refused to come to talk to us. They wanted to negotiate a blanket deal, which quite frankly we were not prepared to do."

This week the members of the rebel tenants' association — whose main aim is thought to have been the securing of a rent-free period — have been reluctant to discuss their problems. Their adviser, the property agent Swebey Cowan, also proved uncontactable.

But Mr Cohen and Tobacco Dock appear to be winning the day, although in the short term it does look like it will have fewer shops. Membership of the association dwindled from 23 to nine, as more and more traders distanced themselves from the increasingly acrimonious line being taken. After this week's walkout, the association has been wound up.

Yesterday, most of the remaining tenants who are committed to the project met to form a new traders' associ-



A shopping revolt: a lack of customers has sparked a walkout among Docklands shop tenants, but many of the remainder express confidence in the ambitious scheme

ation that will take a positive attitude to solving the short-term problems affecting the development.

Mr Angelo Agathangelou is owner of the fashion shop Graphite. He agrees with Mr Cohen that many of the traders doing the complaining were amateurs. "People came down here thinking they would make money straight away. You can't close your shop for half an hour just because there aren't any customers. I still feel this is very unique and the place to be. My takings are on the increase."

Mr Trevor Wheeler, of the wine merchant Berengiers, is also committed to the project. "In any maturing mall there are always problems. But here we have got good relations with the landlord. We now hope to eliminate all the nonsense that has been going on." The new traders are due to meet with the Tobacco Dock management early next week.

But while the remaining traders remain committed, Mr

Cohen still has problems. The second phase of the project is nearing completion and adds another 40,000 sq ft to the existing 100,000 sq ft at a time when letting shop units could not be harder.

As a result the company is now in active negotiations to bring a series of exhibitions and fairs that would attract new people to the scheme. Ideas now being considered involve art exhibitions, a leisure and pleasure fair over the summer and a pre-Christmas toy fair to be held in the autumn.

In addition Phase 1 will soon have Italian and Indian restaurants to add to the existing and flourishing English and American cafes and restaurants.

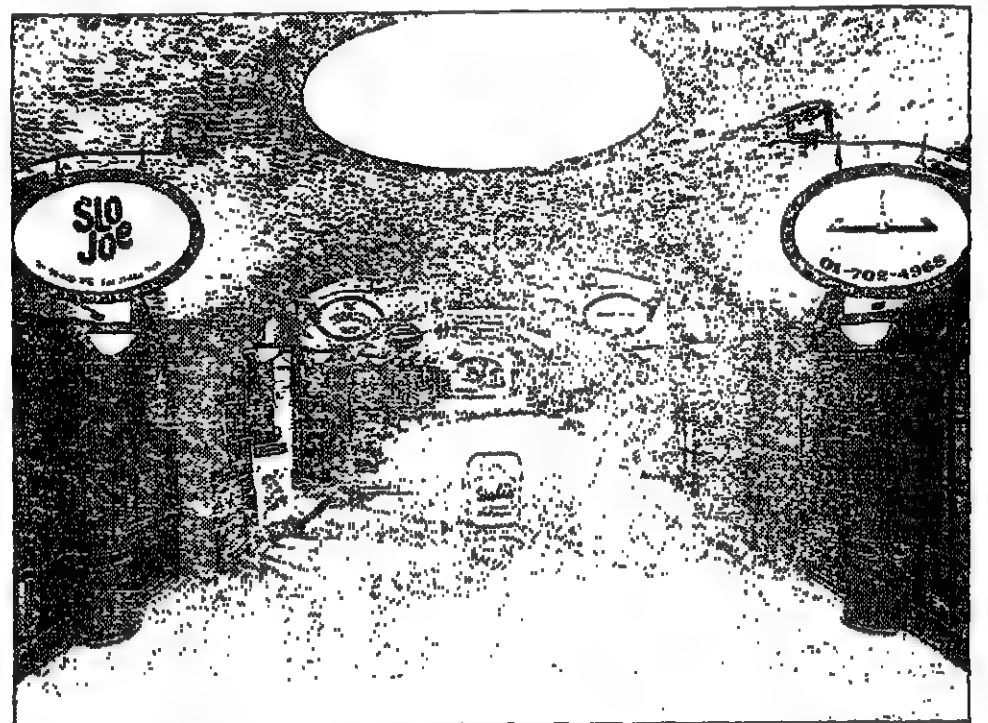
"I think the difference between Tobacco Dock and the high street is that our concept is leisure shopping. We try to make shopping fun. It's just made more difficult when you have a few belligerent tenants."

One area where Mr Cohen

says he has no problem at all is with the banks that provided much of the £50 million of finance that, with the help of the architect Mr Terry Farrell, turned Tobacco Dock into what it is today.

Mr Cohen and his partner Mr Brian Jackson first conceived of the project in 1979, although it was not until 1982 that a company was formed to turn their plans into reality. But 1982 is still a long time before most developers discovered Docklands. "One of the saving graces is that we were one of the first into Docklands so we did not pay exorbitant money."

Mr Cohen and Mr Jackson both own 25 per cent of Tobacco Dock Developments. The remaining 50 per cent is owned by the Neal family behind the contractor Harry Neal. Mr Harry Neal is chairman of the company. His financial commitment to the project is thought to be the most powerful reason why Tobacco Dock should weather the current retail storm.



Looking for custom: the £50 million Tobacco Dock shopping precinct is finding the going tough attracting people to spend money in East London

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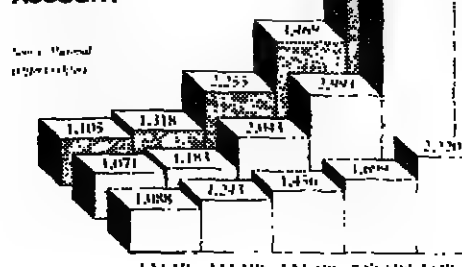
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Mortgage rates cut demand for loans

By LINDSAY COOK
FAMILY MONEY EDITOR

HIGHER mortgage rates cut the demand for building society loans dramatically in April when net new commitments fell by £926 million to £3.24 billion.

The lending figures had been gradually increasing each month since December's low point of £2.89 billion, until mortgage rates were increased by about one percentage point to their highest rate ever.

Mr Mark Boleat, the director general of the Building Societies Association, said: "The decline in building society lending in April from March reflects higher mortgage rates announced in February and the generally depressed state of the housing market."

But building societies had a good month for savings, with net receipts increasing to £783 million in April from £363 million in March.

Mr Boleat said: "The increase in net new receipts to societies is very encouraging and partly reflects the increase in savings rates from March."

"Receipts had picked up in the first quarter and April's result represents a clear confirmation of this upward trend."

Wolverhampton & Dudley raises a glass to £13.8m

By MARTIN WALLER

WOLVERHAMPTON & Dudley Breweries, whose managing director, Mr David Thompson, delivered a stern warning on prospects at the end of last year, raised pre-tax profits from £13.1 million to £13.8 million in the six months to April 1.

The interim dividend is raised from 3.2p to 3.7p. Mr Thompson has forecast a total payout this year of 9p.

He repeated his warning about the prospects for the beer trade in the current year. "There's a big question mark as to what the summer does. We think that the market as a whole will be down 3 per cent."

Wolverhampton & Dudley does not give figures for volume growth, to avoid tipping off its competitors, but Mr Thompson said volumes were up and its market share was showing a slight improvement, particularly in the second quarter of the year.

"Third-quarter trading has started very well, and the margins are good," he said.

The first-half figures were hit by rising interest costs as a result of heavy investment in its beer brands and public houses, in packaging plant at the Wolverhampton brewery and on restaurants. Property profits were also cut back from £261,000 to £30,000 as the



Family team: David Thompson (left) with his father, Edwin, the chairman

group refused to sell properties in the current market conditions at less than its view of their long-term value.

Analysts' forecasts are for pre-tax profits of £32-£33 million in the current year.

Mr Thompson said the success or failure of brewers over the next three years would be decided on the exploitation of their brands.

"The consumer is really telling us that provided the brand values and the quality is right, he's prepared to pay a good price."

Wolverhampton & Dudley's brands include Banks's ale and Harp lagers.

The company has 850 public houses and would be keen to increase to the 2,000 limit allowed by the Monopolies

and Mergers Commission if the right properties become available.

Pre-tax profits at Young & Co's Brewery, Wandsworth, South London, were static at £4.62 million in the year to end-March.

Earnings per share were ahead at 24.11p (21.54p) and a final dividend of 6p makes a total of 11.5p (10.2p).

Lloyds to pay £23m for C&H chemists

By COLIN CAMPBELL

LLOYDS Chemists is paying £23.2 million cash for Cross & Herbert, the seventh largest UK chemist chain, to be financed by an issue of new shares at 160p each and £9.8 million of bank borrowings.

The deal, involving 73 chemist stores and a drug-store, will give Lloyds wider geographic coverage and lead to a group network of 374 stores, of which 429 will be chemists and 145 drugstores.

Cross & Herbert had operating profits, after head office costs, of £1.38 million in the year to September, up from £1.17 million, on turnover of £26.9 million (£24.4 million).

Lloyds says that it will introduce tighter overhead controls at C&H, which include the closure and subsequent sale of its head office and distribution centre.

Lloyds will buy C&H's preference shares at 112.5p cash, and says that it has undertakings to accept the offer for 57.27 per cent of ordinary shares and 86.47 per cent of preference capital.

Lloyds says that its own shareholders may participate in the issue of 8.37 million shares to fund part of the deal, applying for as many as they wish.

Shares in Lloyds fell 6p to 161p.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Dobson Park issues slow trade warning

DOBSON Park Industries, whose industrial electronics interests are more important in profit terms than mining equipment operations, has given warning that second-half trading levels are unlikely to change significantly from the first half. It says the outlook for consumer- and construction-related products is uncertain, implying slow trading.

Interim pre-tax profits to March 31 were £10.16 million (£9.06 million) on turnover of £129.7 million (£114.7 million). Profits from toys and plastics fell from £324,000 to £428,000, while the net interest charge rose from £324,000 to £1.21 million. The interim dividend is held at 1.9p, payable August 13. Dobson Park made pre-tax profits of £19.19 million on turnover of £261.4 million in its previous full financial year. The shares eased 1½p to 87p.

Blick ahead at half time

BLICK, the supplier of clocking-in equipment and radio pagers, saw pre-tax profits climb 7 per cent to £2.65 million in the six months to end-March. Turnover grew from £10.8 million to £11 million. Earnings per share rose from 8.72p to 9.03p, and the interim dividend is improved from 2.4p to 2.5p. A final dividend of not less than 4.5p (4.2p) is intended.

BHH buyout scheme fails

NEGOTIATIONS for a management buyout at BHH Group, the property developer, have been ended after the buyout team's failure to gain finance. Shares in the former Berkeley & Hay Hill fell 17p to 60p. Paribas, financial adviser to Mr David Fitzgerald, chairman, and Mr Robin Bagnall, finance director, blamed difficult trading conditions due to high interest rates.

Elliott advances 73%

B ELLIOTT, the machine tool group being turned round by Mr Michael Frye, has increased pre-tax profits by 73 per cent to £7.63 million in the year to March on sales 53 per cent up at £125 million.

Although the £39 million of purchases from Williams Holdings, Meggit and private vendors were the main reason for the rise, Mr Frye said that organic growth in profits from the original businesses exceeded 30 per cent. Earnings per share rose 25 per cent to 12.5p. The final dividend is up by 0.6p to 3.1p, leaving the total 21 per cent ahead at 4.35p.

James Smith tops £1m

JAMES Smith Estates, the USM property investment group, has revealed a 53 per cent advance in pre-tax profits to £1.14 million in the year to March 24. Earnings per share rose 48 per cent to 5.07p, while the final dividend is raised to 2p (0.94p), making 3p (1.64p) for the year. Net assets per share improved from 151.9p to 164p.

Systems in French deal

SYSTEMS Reliability Holdings, the acquisitive computer dealing-to-telephone systems group, has acquired 67 per cent of CPG, which is based in Paris, and all of Conseil Assistance Electronique, which owns 33 per cent of CPG, for an initial Fr4.89 million (£513,000) in cash. There are additional payments up to Fr2 million, depending on profits.

GE to receive \$500m

GENERAL Electric of the US will receive \$500 million in compensation for a failed joint venture arrangement with Daimler-Benz after a court settlement in New York.

GE took the action after Motoren and Turbinen Union, Daimler's engine division, struck a deal with Pratt and Whitney, United Technologies' engine division. The lawsuit alleged the agreement breached a previous alliance with GE and risked the loss of trade secrets Daimler may have gained from its co-operation in the GE-90 engine development programme. The new joint venture will concentrate on the Pratt and Whitney high-thrust PW4000 engine.

Profits up by 45% for Verson

PRE-TAX profits at Verson International Group, the West Midlands metal-forming machinery-maker, jumped by 45.5 per cent to £2.47 million in the year to end-January.

Turnover, boosted by acquisitions, grew by 63 per cent to £69.1 million. Earnings per share climbed 41 per cent to 2.75p, while the final dividend is improved to 0.6p (0.4p), making a total of 0.81p (0.57p) for the year.

The group entered the new year with order books 47 per cent ahead of last year and this has continued to increase, reaching about £80 million by the end of last month, with 73 per cent for export.

Elswick ahead

ELSWICK, the lawn-cutting equipment and bicycles maker, lifted pre-tax profits by 34 per cent to £2.42 million in the year to end-January despite higher interest costs. Sales, which were boosted by acquisitions, grew by 18 per cent to £47.4 million. Earnings per share climbed from 1.27p to 1.67p, with diluted earnings up from 1.19p to 1.58p. There is a final dividend of 0.40p, making 0.60p (0.45p).

Bennett talks

BENNETT & Fountain, the electrical retailer and distributor, has confirmed that it is in talks with a third party "who is interested in subscribing for new shares at a moderate premium to the current market price." The shares climbed by 3p to 40p on the news.

Changes at Standard Chartered

By NEIL BENNETT
BANKING CORRESPONDENT

STANDARD Chartered, the international banking group, has reorganized its board as part of its recovery plan.

Mr Geoffrey Williams, deputy chairman of Schroders, is to be made head of all the merchant banking operations. Mr Malcolm Williamson, who joined Standard 18 months ago after being managing director of Girobank, becomes head of all the group's main banking activities, responsible for 700 offices in more than 50 countries. He was the head of the bank's Eastern hemisphere.

Mr Williams, who retired from Schroders in July, will be responsible for Chartered WestLB, Standard's new joint venture with Westdeutsche Landesbank, and the merchant banks in Asia and Africa.

Mr Bill Brown, deputy chief executive, becomes deputy chairman. Mr John MacKenzie will take control of the group's financial services businesses, including Chartered Trust, the finance house.

This is the second stage of a reorganization Mr Rodney Galpin, chairman, began after a strategic review last summer. Since he joined the bank two years ago, more than 30 of the 40 senior management positions have changed.

Mr Galpin said this month that Standard would have difficulty increasing its trading profits this year.

Fine Art posts an improved £25.7m

By MELINDA WITTSTOCK

FINE Art Developments, the greeting card and mail order business which had warned of a slowdown in profits growth, recovered from the impact of the postal strike in its previous financial year to increase pre-tax profits by 13.6 per cent to £25.7 million on sales up 16.1 per cent to £256 million for the year to end-March.

But the company said that the full-year results, "while above last year, were below our expectations."

Though agency mail order performance during the peak Christmas season was "highly satisfactory," the momentum did not carry through to the spring, said the company. The

direct mail operations of Venture Marketing, which has since been sold, also "suffered dramatically" from the downturn in consumer spending.

Fine Art said its greeting cards and paper products division again turned in a strong performance, with the exception of the Papertree high street chain, which became yet another retailer struck by high interest rates.

The acquisition of Hestair Hope, for £11.6 million last November, made no "material" contribution to profits.

Earnings per share rose by 14.5 per cent to 22.21p. A final dividend of 6.6p (5.75p) makes a total of 8.9p (7.75p).



THE HEALEY & BAKER VIEW



New openings in Europe. Which way will the real estate market go?

With barriers of all kinds being removed throughout Europe, the real estate market is already seeing a dramatic increase in international activity.

At its simplest, the creation of the single European market should enable international players to purchase, let and sell real estate in any EEC country according to the same rules.

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HEALEY & BAKER

British Telecom and the party line

COMMENT

British Telecom's future is destined to be more political over the next two years than at any time since privatization in 1984. This is not simply because its shareholders must take seriously the prospect of a Labour government still committed to controlling BT's remaining telephone monopoly.

More immediately, BT faces a crucial review of domestic competition starting in November. The European Commission is bound to have something to say about excessive charges for international calls, where BT regards itself as an innocent beneficiary of international carrels.

The Government could choose to throw a pre-election spanner in Labour's intended works. This could be done by selling the state's remaining 49 per cent of BT stock.

The Labour "threat" is nothing like the reversal of privatization and competition implicit last time. The new policy is still to raise the state stake by the 2 per cent needed for boardroom control. But Labour overtly aims to use control only as an

instrument of French *dirigisme* to wire British homes up with advanced multi-use fibre optic cable.

BT has its own, much more modest plans in this direction. In Britain, fibre optics are mainly confined to trunk lines and special areas such as the City. But BT is to experiment in Bishops Cleeve, using fibre optics to transmit entertainment to televisions.

This is mainly to promote the strategy of seeking permission, in the review, to compete with cable links through its telephone network. In exchange, BT is getting out of cable, thus removing a competitive bar to the overseas telephone companies investing in cable as a means of delivering an alternative telephone service.

If BT's strategy succeeds, it could find itself arguing with a Labour government mainly over the speed of infrastructure investment rather than principle.

Such niceties lessen the Government's incentive to sell the rest of BT just in case. It would have to act fast to do this before the autumn of next year, since the various phases of electricity will fill the privatization timetable from this autumn.

The competition review is not the threat it might once have seemed for BT, principally because of its perceived improvement in performance. In practice, BT will be taking an offensive line, seeking to show that competition — not just from Mercury — is now sufficiently real to loosen regulation. This may be premature. But BT certainly has a strong case in urging the Government to press for a level playing field on foreign entry, initially in the US, where there is a 25 per cent limit, and

notably on the the continent, where the BT's of a decade ago still rule.

Global view

Globe shareholders have been enjoying the pleasant experience of watching their company's net asset value growing faster than spring flowers. That is if you take the figures — three different ones in six weeks — at their face value.

While this may seem little more than the usual knock-about stuff to be expected when an institution such as Globe, which prizes its independence highly, is fighting tooth and nail to ward off a bid, there is a serious danger that shareholders may miss out on the opportunity to take a profit on their shares if they fail

to ask just how realistic the latest valuation really is.

Part of the problem is that Globe has so far refused to break out the detailed calculations which underpin the new figures. These are promised in the annual report. But pending its arrival, shareholders should take note of the reservations made by the Coal Board Pension funds, which are offering 191p per share, or £1.03 billion.

In the past there has been very little daylight between the provisional net asset values published by the Association of Investment Trust Companies and the subsequently presented official figures from the company. This year, the divergence was considerable. When Globe released the official figures in May, at 213p per share, they were 8.5p above AITC's number — a gain in money terms of no less than £46 million. Both Globe itself and the AITC have access to the stock market prices which

are the valuation basis for Globe's quoted investments. The difference has to be in the values Globe itself places on its unquoted assets. This implies an uplift of a third, which takes some explaining.

Globe is now asking shareholders to accept a further rise from 213p to 225p, or an additional £83 million. Half of the latest rise comes from a directors' view of the worth of Globe's management company from £7.1 million in the books to and eyebrow raising £51 million. This may be so. But if it is, then in order to support the new value, the management company would have to make arms length charges for managing Globe's assets, which would surely depress the stated asset figure accordingly.

Pending the next round in the war of words, shareholders might care to note that in March Mr Jimmy West, Globe's managing director, sold 161,000 shares at 171p each, after exercising options based on asset performance. That may give yet another perspective on what Globe's assets are really worth in the market.

TEMPUS

Unfortunate timing for MEPC

THE gloomy statement from Sir Christopher Benson, the MEPC chairman, which accompanied the interim results, undid all the good work that Land Securities' final had done the day before.

Sir Christopher's remarks contrasted markedly with the cautious optimism of Mr Peter Hunt, chairman of Land Securities, who on Wednesday spoke of being able to see the light at the end of property's dark tunnel.

There was no such optimism from Sir Christopher. He pointed out that development surpluses were being eroded and that property values were under pressure. While earnings will improve this year, the same might not be said for net assets.

So why do Britain's two biggest property companies see the future so differently? The answer is timing.

Mr Hunt is right in seeing the light at the end of the tunnel for companies as well as for the Land Securities and MEPC — witness MEPC's 20 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £77.4 million in the six months to March and its dividend of 5.25p (4.74p).

But Sir Christopher is right in thinking that before things get better, they will get worse. The misfortune for MEPC is that the revaluation of its portfolio will come at the end of September when the "adverse sentiment" that he talks about may, if anything, have

deteriorated. Valuation yields, already moving higher at a rate of knots, could still be high. That is bad luck and bad news for MEPC.

Land Securities, on the other hand, having scraped in with a 2.1 per cent rise in net asset value for last year, now has 10 months to go before its £5.6 billion portfolio is revalued. By then interest rates should be moving sharply down and valuation yields could be following. For those playing the short game Land Securities looks the safer bet.

Chrysalis

EVEN the most perspicacious observer of the pop scene or the shrewdest City analyst would a year ago have had difficulty predicting that the unlikely alibi of Miss Sinead O'Connor would be the saving of Chrysalis Group.

Miss O'Connor's effort, which could yet produce for Chrysalis its biggest-selling album, made no contribution to first-half figures showing pre-tax profits of just £487,000 against losses of £2.1 million last time. Since then the album has notched up revenues of about £30 million for Chrysalis's record business, now jointly owned by Thorn EMI.

Further losses from the US record side in the first half were slightly more than matched by earnings from the

European and UK business. Chrysalis is now promising a quadrupling of US revenues this year and a doubling for the music side as a whole.

Interest payments tumbled as a result of the Thorn deal, although £10 million was spent on property. The first-half figures took a £909,000 hit as a result of a provision for unrealized losses on US dollar investments.

The shares are at a low of 118p. All that is keeping them up is the inflated price the market is currently putting on record libraries and the chances of Thorn being allowed to come back for the rest.

Chrysalis could make £3.2 million pre-tax this year but will suffer from an inflated tax charge. Next year profits of perhaps £5 million give a prospective multiple of a little more than 8, given the benefit of US tax losses. Still hard to justify.

Compass

WHEN a business changes hands more than once in a couple of years, suspicion is bound to arise that there is something wrong. In July 1987, Grand Metropolitan sold its contract catering subsidiary, Compass, to a management team, which floated it less than 18 months later.

Even though Compass's operating profits had quadrupled in the previous four years, the shares were offered at 245p, a lowly multiple of 10 times prospective earnings — and, as a final insult, a third of the issue was left with the underwriters.

Fortunately, the market's doubts proved groundless. After rising 29 per cent to £25.1 million last year, pre-tax profits advanced a further 17 per cent to £13.7 million in the six months to April 1.

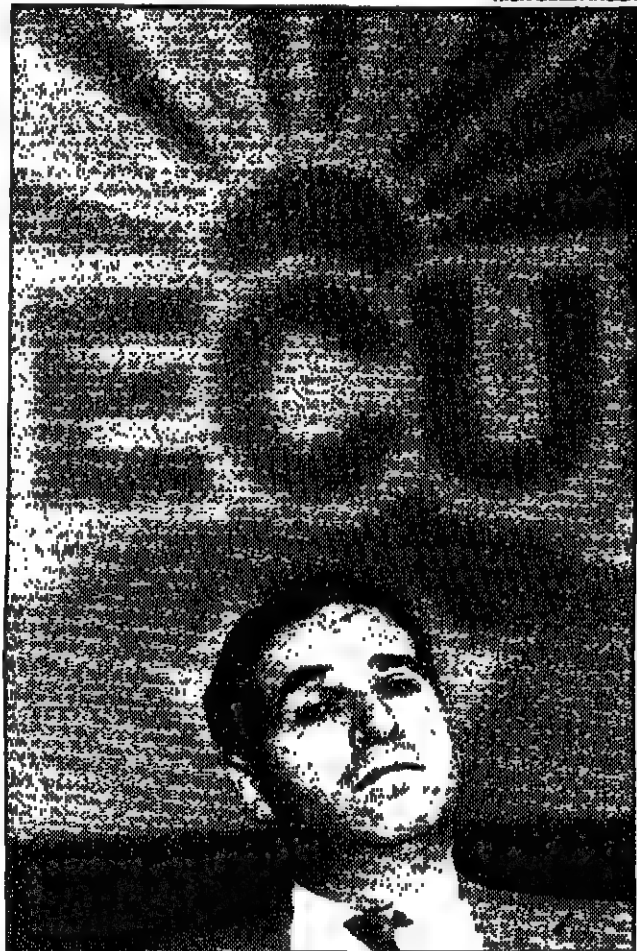
Although £1.2 million of the rise was due to the acquisition of the former USM-quoted hospital group, Health Care Services, and Winterbourne Hospital in the early months of 1989, earnings per share increased 16 per cent to 13.4p.

These purchases left operating profits from the healthcare side 72 per cent ahead at £4.3 million. But the original contract catering and security operations still chip in more than two thirds of the total and profits from these rose 15 per cent to £12.4 million.

Analysts expect full-year profits of £29.5 million and earnings of 28.7p, putting the shares, at 339p, on a prospective p/e ratio of 12. The rating took a heavy knock two months ago at the time of the aborted £97 million bid for Sketchley. However, Compass insists that it has only piecemeal hospital acquisitions in its sights and the shares should recover further as confidence returns.

Exploding myths in the great debate over EMU

NICK GOLDFINGER



Backing EMU: Sir Leon Brittan yesterday

BRITAIN is unique among European countries in that the exchange-rate mechanism (ERM) and a single European currency form part of public debate. The same may be said of Britain's financial markets and their recent, though unfounded, excitement over the prospect of sterling's joining the ERM.

Yesterday's Federal Trust Conference on European Monetary Union, held in the City, was an example of this phenomenon. Had it taken place in any other EC country, it would probably have been ignored. Not so in Britain. The press turned out in force and two television crews covered the event.

Proponents of a single European currency, including Sir Leon Brittan, vice-president of the European Commission, see monetary union as a necessary part of a genuine single European market. Without it, cross-border trade will continue to be hampered by exchange-rate risks and crowded out by transaction costs, he says.

The sceptics, such as Professor Patrick Minford, of Liverpool University, regard it as a route to possibly even higher inflation. After all, he argued, inflation in Britain picked up while the country was trying to shadow the Deutschmark.

The debate, of course, has not started recently, nor will it end soon, nor has it yielded much in tangible results. What is surprising is that so much of the debate is based on a number of myths.

The most often quoted myth is that Britain is the odd one out in Europe, and that while the rest of Europe badly wants a single currency by the end of the decade, or even before, Britain's opposition will leave sterling a miserable off-shore currency. Yet, in reality the differences between the British and Continental positions are becoming ones of style, rather than substance.

West Germany's position is pivotal. At the Strasbourg European summit in December, Chancellor Kohl was cajoled into accepting the principle of a single currency in return for German reunification, but that country's deep-rooted fear of rapid change in monetary matters could return.

German monetary union (GMU), due in July, may exhaust the conservative Federal Republic's willingness to take risks with inflation.

One of West Germany's most influential powerbrokers during the forthcoming inter-governmental conference will be Herr Hans Tietmeyer, until recently state secretary in the

finance ministry. Now a director in the Bundesbank, and seconded as GMU adviser to Herr Kohl, it is his lot to reconcile a sceptical Bundesbank and an adventurous government.

Naturally, Herr Tietmeyer supports a single European currency. He also insists that all central banks would need

to adopt equivalent money supply targets and move to convergence of minimum reserve requirements. Britain and Germany use different money targets (M0 in Britain, M3 in Germany) and both would adamantly defend their positions. The proposed convergence forms part of the second stage of the Delors plan, which EC officials in Brussels already admit will be the most difficult stage.

Herr Tietmeyer is sceptical whether European countries would be prepared to make these changes once they can see the short-term consequences. In Italy, where minimum reserve requirements are among the highest in the world, interest rates would need to rise in order to compensate for the accompanying surge in credit. In Britain, where reserve requirements are minimal, interest rates could come down a shade, although the Government remains opposed to anything smelling of credit controls.

Stage-two Delors would require, at the very least, many countries to take decisions against their short-term interests. They include, of course, Britain, but also Spain, Portugal, Greece, and Italy. In short, Herr Tietmeyer remains deeply sceptical about the realization of single currency by the end of decade, and, after reunification, West Germany may see little gain from lasty pan-Europeanism.

The EC commission has accepted one of Germany's main demands, that the "EuroFed" be independent of political influence. According to Sir Leon, price stability should be the EuroFed's exclusive objective, making it a kind of Bundesbank clone.

"If war is too important a matter to leave to generals, money is certainly too delicate an issue to be left to economists," Sir Leon said. He did not say that money is also too precious a commodity to be left to politicians.

So far, the commission and the Council of Ministers have not shown much interest in independent bodies. Whether they will agree to yield power in the vital matter of money remains open to question.

Wolfgang Münchau

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Power talks beyond GEC

MOUNTING speculation that Malcolm Bates, the deputy managing director of GEC, may be about to become the first chairman of National Power — after Lord Marshall walked out in protest at cuts in the nuclear programme — is thought to be exacerbating the succession problem at GEC, which is currently preoccupying Lord Weinstock. Bates has often been tipped in City circles as Weinstock's most likely successor, and talk of his negotiations with the Treasury over National Power — although denied by Bates's office — is in turn fuelling speculation that he must have been ruled out of the top job at GEC. With Weinstock's 66th birthday barely two months away — the company has a ruling that all personnel must retire at 65 — allowances being made for GEC's takeover of Plessey last year are starting to wear thin. City followers of the stock, still convinced that Weinstock would dearly love his son Simon, aged 40, and ex-SG Warburg, to succeed him one day, are drawing up a shortlist of internal candidates. Included on that list are main board directors Iain MacBeath, Douglas Gadd, David Powell, and Rees Williams, who left the company after Bates had been promoted over him, but subsequently returned. Also listed is Kelvin Bray, who runs Ruston Gas Turbines and covered himself in glory when he helped put together the Alsthom power

station joint venture. "Lord Weinstock has a lot of good people," quipped one observer. "But my guess is that he'll become chairman and install someone in their early 60s as MD — that gives Simon a couple more years to get ready."

REGARDLESS of who was really at fault over the confusion that surrounded the premature publication of the MMC report recommending that Kingfisher's bid for Dixons be blocked, Her Majesty's Stationery Office took the brunt of light-hearted City criticism. In one watering hole in the Square Mile it was mischievously being suggested that the initials HMSO stood for Horribly Muddled Sales Operation.

High-flying fall

BANKERS Trust's Andy Neale is used to the rough and tumble of the traded options pitch. And so colleagues were understandably surprised when he walked out to the floor recently with his arm in a plaster cast. Neale had in fact been paragliding in Wales — and had fallen badly on landing. "It was just the second flight of the day, and I fell 25 feet out of the sky," laments Neale, who broke his wrist in the process. Due to move to Paris next month, to join a Bankers Trust team trading French index options on the bourse, Neale clearly intends to acclimatize to the change in culture in some style. He and 15 fellow options traders are

crossing the Channel this weekend for the Fountainbleau Ball — one of the highlights of the Parisian social year.

Mearns steps out

ALISTAIR Mearns, the partner at Moore Stephens, the City accountant, who is responsible for the firm's development in Poland — where it opened an office in October last year — could easily be mistaken as something of a frustrated artist. For he has, I'm told, taken to drawing around the feet of colleagues on large sheets of white paper. He is also often seen with a tape measure in hand, to ensure a life-size reproduction of his subject. There is, however — in keeping with that well-known trait of the profession — a far more logical explanation. For Mearns, aged 29, has discovered a shoe-maker just around the corner from Moore Stephens' Warsaw office, has kitted himself out with a pair of black brogues, and is being inundated with orders from his fellow number-crunchers. "If I draw round the feet and measure the bridge, he can make the shoes to measure," Mearns explains. "I bring back one pair each time I go."

And while most orders are for conventional black or brown brogues, Gervase Hulbert, the chairman of the firm's international division, has been seen sporting a red snakeskin pair. As might be expected of accountants, the numbers certainly stack up. Each pair costs just £20 — a hefty saving on

Lobb, the St James's boot-maker, where a standard calf hide pair will set you back £840, plus VAT, and a top of the range crocodile pair £2,314. Red snakeskin falls somewhere in between.

WE ALL know that the economic situation in Australia is a little difficult, but surely it can't be that bad... outside the Duke of Wellington Hotel, a hostelry in Melbourne frequented by journalists and brokers alike, is a bill board which boasts: "Raucous waiters, 4-6 Fridays, happy hour. Buy one, get one free."

Contra Callander

AGAINST all odds, some might say, yet another City firm is stepping up its market-making activities. Société Générale Strauss Turnbull, which began making markets in 22 British stocks last September, is in the process of increasing its coverage from 66 to 72 stocks, and hopes to be dealing in all those on the FT-SE 100 index before the end of the year. "I like being contra-cyclical," said Julian Burn-Callander, head of sales. "Some people might be surprised by our decision, but SGST is different in that it already has a largely profitable business in ADRs and derivatives, and if you have that expertise it's silly not to be doing fundamental market-making." The firm now has 10 salesmen, including Ian Vickery, from BZW, Pat Lodge, ex-Morgan Grenfell and Albert E Sharp, and Jane Thompson, from Warburg.

Carol Leonard

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CINCINNATI

ATLANTA

LONDON

Brady puts
rescue atEuropean
Bank aims
to competeThe risks in
fixed-rate
mortgagesON SATURDAY
IN COLU

Belgium's closer tie to mark welcomed

From MICHAEL BONYON IN BRUSSELS

BELGIAN political leaders and businessmen have given a generally warm welcome to the government's decision to peg the Belgian franc more closely to the Deutschmark — a move that significantly strengthens the mark's position as Western Europe's *de facto* common currency.

The franc will now operate within a very narrow band against the mark within the European Monetary System. The Dutch guilder is already tied to the mark, and the decision by the Belgian National Bank effectively makes the mark the central currency throughout the Benelux countries. Luxembourg will automatically follow the Belgian decision, since it is tied to Belgium in a currency union.

Mr Philippe Maystadt, the Belgian finance minister, said the move would be part of the first phase of the EC plan for economic and monetary union, which is to start on July 1. The next day sees the start of German currency union, with the Deutschmark becoming the only legal tender of East Germany.

The Belgian decision, only a month before German currency union, is a sign of confidence by Germany's neighbours that this union will not weaken the mark or lead to inflation. It vindicates the

claim by the Bundesbank that Germany can manage both German and European economic union at the same time.

This move means that the market has leapt ahead of the Delors report, which foresaw a common currency being introduced in the final stage of EMU, after the setting up of a European System of Central Banks. Herr Karl Otto Pöhl, the Bundesbank president, said last week that the new common currency would not be a "basket" of currencies as the Ecu is. If the name "Ecu" were kept, the new common currency would have to be different, with a fixed, independent value. Effectively, he came close to suggesting that it should be the Deutschmark with a different name.

The Belgian franc has benefited from Belgium's rapidly improving financial situation in recent years. Inflation has come down to a respectable figure, real GNP growth last year registered 4.4 per cent and there is a sound balance of payments surplus.

The government has embarked on a campaign to bring more discipline to the budget, and to reduce the huge deficit by tough public spending cuts. It also wants to open Belgian financial markets to greater competition before the end of 1992. Already this year, Bel-

gium has cut its withholding tax on bonds and bank interest from 25 per cent to 10 per cent and abolished an archaic dual exchange rate system.

The hope now is that by pegging the franc to the mark, the government can convince markets that the franc is stable, see a fall in interest rates and benefit from Germany's strong growth.

Luxembourg is pleased by the move since West Germany is the Grand Duchy's largest trading partner. Luxembourg and Belgian officials believe that the integration of the Benelux group will be accelerated by having a common Deutschmark zone.

Only some of the socialists in the Belgian coalition government express doubts. They are concerned that closer ties with the mark will demand a stricter monetary and budgetary policy, and the French-speaking socialists are fearful of too much German influence on the economy.

Commentators here say that public expenditure and wage policies will be almost completely defined by the Bundesbank, and that this should have been more fully discussed in public beforehand. Such fears echo arguments in Britain over ceding financial sovereignty in the later stages of the Delors report.

Chiltern Radio tunes into growth



Going for SuperGold listeners: Peter Burton (left), with Colin Mason, Chiltern Radio's managing director

CHILTERN Radio, the Home Counties commercial radio group in which Capital Radio has a 22.9 per cent stake, has boosted pre-tax profits by 43 per cent to £403,000 on turnover up 23 per cent to £1.89 million, for the six months to end-March. (Melinda Wittstock writes.)

It has done so on the back of growth in both local and national advertising revenue. Local advertising, which accounts for 70 per cent of Chiltern's advertising revenue, was up 30 per cent, with national advertising up 10 per cent. Mr Peter Burton, the chairman, said

local advertising revenue is up 60 per cent in April, more than compensating for a fall in national advertising.

"We anticipated the slowdown in national advertising and responded by trimming back costs," he said, adding that Chiltern had saved £150,000 from 12 redundancies.

Chiltern, which is to split its frequencies in June, is to launch a service aimed at the 35-to-65 age group called SuperGold on three of its four FM stations.

Mr Burton said SuperGold will op-

erate within existing studio capacity at virtually no extra operating cost.

Chiltern, which supplies administrative services and sets up transmission systems and studios for other stations such as KCBC, Kettering, and Choice FM, South London, is looking for other similar deals. It is also keen on acquiring existing stations as well as applying for new radio franchises.

Interim earnings per share increased 29 per cent to 4.5p, while the interim dividend rose 43 per cent to 1p. Shares in Chiltern climbed 5p to 170p.

Slump hits margins at Westbury

By MATTHEW BOND

THE deteriorating climate for house sales is hitting margins, according to Mr Richard Fraser, the chairman of Westbury, the Midlands housebuilder.

In the first six months, Westbury's operating margins were 20.8 per cent. But in the second half they fell to 16.4 per cent. In the coming year, Mr Fraser expects them to fall further, to the 11 to 15 per cent range that Westbury had become accustomed to before the boom of the late 1980s.

Mr Fraser said last year was difficult, with pre-tax profits in the year to February falling by 22.5 per cent to £28.1 million. However, despite the difficulties, Westbury sold 2,266 houses during the year, only 33 less than the year before, with turnover rising by 13 per cent to £174.4 million.

The average price of its private housing was £77,900 for the year, but £74,390 for the second half. Comparing like for like, Mr Fraser believes prices fell by between 10 and 20 per cent last year.

Borrowings rose sharply to £51 million, giving year-end gearing of 48 per cent. That resulted in an interest charge 182 per cent higher at £8 million.

Although earnings per share fell to 36.6p (50.8p), the final dividend is raised to 5.75p (5.5p) to give a total of 9.0p (8.5p).

Brady puts thrifts rescue at \$130bn

From JOHN DUNN IN NEW YORK

THE potential catastrophe facing the United States over the failed savings and loan industry has been underlined by Mr Nicholas Brady, the Treasury Secretary, upgrading his estimate of the cost of the government's bail-out by \$57 billion to \$130 billion.

Mr Brady was giving testimony before the Senate Banking Committee and underlined the uncertainties involved in setting any figure for the bail-out costs.

"There are too many uncertainties to give precise figures, but taking into account all the uncertainties and variables the figure could approximate \$90 billion to \$130 billion," he said. The variables include interest rates, inflation and the progress the government has in selling the assets of the failed institutions.

The US government must pay the bill for the bail-out because it guarantees the deposits paid to the institutions and must pay the difference between the assets and liabilities of the failed institutions.

Mr Brady's estimate compares with the \$73 billion

figure placed on the bail-out last year by President Bush.

The \$57 billion difference amounts to more than one third of the latest estimate for the 1991 US budget deficit of \$138 billion.

The bail-out costs will be kept off-budget as it is considered a non-recurring item which requires working capital until the assets are sold.

Mr Brady said the Resolution Trust Corp, the body responsible for selling the assets, could run out of funds this year unless it had authority to borrow more.

Mr Bill Seidman, RTC chairman, has said that the government faced a tough task in selling the commercial property and junk bonds which accounted for the bulk of the assets in the failed institutions.

The RTC has 423 failed thrifts under its control, with assets of \$220 billion, and hopes to sell 141 of these institutions by June 30.

The US General Accounting Office has estimated the bail-out could cost \$325 billion over the next 30 years.

European Bank aims to compete

THE planned European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, which will channel funds to Eastern Europe, will lend at market rates and compete with banks in the private sector.

Mr Andrew Crockett, bank director for external affairs, told the House of Commons Treasury Committee that it would concentrate on project lending to the private sector rather than balance of payments financing.

"It would make a commercial rate of return on the funds it's able to borrow. It would do that in competition with private-sector institutions," he said.

EBRD loans would not be subsidized, and its need to borrow competitively on the capital market would ensure its lending policy remained sound.

Asked what the need for the London-based EBRD was if it was going to lend at market rates, Mr Crockett said it would build up a fund of expertise greater than in normal merchant banks. (Reuters)

HK hit by 6% fall in exports

From LULU YU IN HONG KONG

HONG Kong's domestic exports fell 6 per cent in April — the sharpest drop this year.

While sales of Hong Kong goods slipped to HK\$16.41 billion (£1.25 billion) from April last year, re-exports rose 10 per cent to HK\$30.86 billion, giving total exports a 4 per cent boost to HK\$47.27 billion.

The slowdown in the export growth followed a slump in world trade and political turmoil in China last year. It is also a direct result of Hong Kong's shift from a manufacturing to a service centre.

Re-exports, which account for more than 60 per cent of Hong Kong's exports, grew by an average of just 10 per cent in the first four months, against an average of 41 per cent in the same period last year.

The first-quarter economic report due out today is expected to show smaller trade and tourism revenues, high inflation and escalating wages.

The risks in fixed-rate mortgages

FIXED rate mortgages are making a comeback, and are beginning to indicate that mortgage rates could soon be on their way down.

Family Money will look at what the risks are and

THE TIMES ON SATURDAY IN COLOUR

are likely to be better value. Also under scrutiny are company pension schemes, and the high cost of paying off a loan from a high street store early.

And the Inland Revenue is allowing more people to have free lunches without any tax consequences. Full reports will be included on Saturday.

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This man earns £19,000 a year.

This advertisement hopes to raise money for people like him.

His salary will hardly come as a great surprise, when you learn that he's already well on his way to becoming a solicitor in the 1990s.

What might take you aback, however, is the fact that he's blind.

At the Royal National Institute for the Blind, we'd like to see the day when you won't bat an eyelid at the idea of a blind solicitor.

And we're working to bring that day within sight.

From an early age, the children at RNIB New College, Worcester, learn all the subjects taught in ordinary schools. Most go on to higher education, and eventually develop successful careers.

The RNIB Employment Network gives blind adults, including those who've lost their sight in later life, the chance to retrain or learn the new skills they need to help them find work in a sighted world. Of course, just as with sighted people, not all will be as successful as the young man above.

But we believe that each and every one should, at the very least, be given the chance to reach the full extent of his or her potential.

Needless to say, this costs money. That's why the RNIB Looking Glass Appeal has now been set up to help fund our schools, colleges, and all the other services we run to help Britain's one million blind

and partially sighted people live their lives to the full. We need to raise £10 million, and every penny counts. Please give what you can

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 Name _____
 Address _____
 Postcode _____
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 For credit card donations ring Charlyne
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RNIB
LOOKING
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APPEAL

Hoylake wound up after it disposes of BAT shares

in 1950

Portfolio

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No.	Company	Group	Gain or Loss
1	Johnston Press	Paper, Print, Adv	
2	Greene King	Breweries	
3	Stanley Leisure	Leisure	
4	Cable Wireless (as)	Electronics	
5	Preston Property	Property	
6	Newscor	Media, News	
7	UK Land	Property	
8	Evode	Chemicals, Plastics	
9	Heywood Williams	Building, Roads	
10	Johnstone Press	Newspapers, Pub	
11	Tyne Tees TV	Leisure	
12	Kwik-Fit	Motor, Aircraft	
13	Yorkshire Chem	Chemicals, Plastics	
14	Scott & New (as)	Breweries	
15	Hallidown (as)	Foods	
16	NPC	Transport	
17	Parfield	Transport	
18	Agglen Higgs	Foods	
19	Worcester	Industrials L-R	
20	PFG Hodgson	Industrials L-R	
21	Lambert Howarth	Shoes, Leather	
22	Wardle Stores Plc	Chemicals, Plastics	
23	Gil Western Res	Oil, Gas	
24	Barton (as)	Drugs, Stores	
25	Biffam (J)	Industrials A-D	
26	Rotor	Industrials L-R	
27	Kelsey Ind	Industrials A-D	
28	Be Syphon	Industrials A-D	
29	Ratners Group	Drugs, Stores	
30	Clorton Eng	Industrials E-K	
31	Hickson	Chemicals, Plastics	
32	Tomkins	Industrials S-Z	
33	Swire Pacific 'A'	Industrials S-Z	
34	Colony	Building, Roads	
35	Hartstone	Drugs, Stores	
36	Elbott (B)	Industrials E-K	
37	Wessex Water	Water	
38	Capital Radio	Leisure	
39	Ash & Lucy	Industrials A-D	
40	Union Disc	Banks, Discount	
41	De La Rue	Industrials A-D	
42	Tipstock	Transport	
43	Verson	Industrials S-Z	
44	Parkland 'A'	Textiles	

Please take into account any minus signs

Weekly Dividend						
Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £3,000 in tomorrow's newspaper.						
MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	Weekly Total

There were no valid claims for yesterday's Portfolio Platinum competition. The £2,000 will be added to today's prize.

BRITISH FUNDS			
High	Low	Open	Close

SHORTS (Under Five Years)			
High	Low	Open	Close

FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS			
High	Low	Open	Close

OVER FIFTEEN YEARS			
High	Low	Open	Close

UNDATED			
High	Low	Open	Close

INDEX-LINKED			
High	Low	Open	Close

BANKS, DISCOUNT HP			
High	Low	Open	Close

STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

Shares mixed

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began May 14. Dealings end today. Settlement day May 29. Settlement day June 4. Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days.

Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Where one price is quoted, it is a middle price. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices. (as) denotes Alpha Stocks. (VOLUMES: PAGE 28)

1990	High	Low	Open	Close	% Chg	Vol	PE
1							

BREWERIES							
1990	High	Low	Open	Close	% Chg	Vol	PE
1							

BUILDING, ROADS							
1990	High	Low	Open	Close	% Chg	Vol	PE
1							

CHEMICALS, PLASTICS							
1990	High	Low	Open	Close	% Chg	Vol	PE
1							

DRAPERY, STORES							
1990	High	Low	Open	Close	% Chg	Vol	PE
1							

HOTELS, CATERERS							
1990	High	Low	Open	Close	% Chg	Vol	PE
1							

INDUSTRIALS A-D							
1990	High	Low	Open	Close	% Chg	Vol	PE
1							

ELECTRICALS							
1990	High	Low	Open	Close	% Chg	Vol	PE
1							

FINANCE, LAND							
1990	High	Low	Open	Close	% Chg	Vol	PE
1							

FINANCIAL TRUSTS							
1990	High	Low	Open	Close	% Chg	Vol	PE
1							

FOODS							
1990	High	Low	Open	Close	% Chg	Vol	PE
1							

S-Z							
1990	High	Low	Open	Close	% Chg	Vol	PE
1							

MOTOR, AIRCRAFT							
1990	High	Low	Open	Close	% Chg	Vol	PE
1							

NEWSPAPERS, PUBLISHERS							
1990	High	Low	Open	Close	% Chg	Vol	PE
1							

OIL, GAS							
1990	High	Low	Open	Close	% Chg	Vol	PE
1							

TOBACCO							
1990	High	Low	Open	Close	% Chg	Vol	PE
1							

TRANSPORT							
1990	High	Low	Open	Close	% Chg	Vol	PE
1							

OVERSEAS TRADERS							
1990	High	Low	Open	Close	% Chg	Vol	PE
1							

PAPER, PRINT, ADVERTISING							
1990	High	Low	Open	Close	% Chg	Vol	PE
1							

PROPERTY							
1990	High	Low	Open	Close	% Chg	Vol	PE
1							

SHOES, LEATHER							
1990	High	Low	Open	Close	% Chg	Vol	PE
1							

TEXTILES							
1990	High	Low	Open	Close	% Chg	Vol	PE
1							

WATER							
1990	High	Low	Open	Close	% Chg	Vol	PE
1							

INSURANCE							
1990	High	Low	Open	Close	% Chg	Vol	PE
1							

LEISURE							
1990	High	Low	Open	Close	% Chg	Vol	PE
1							

MINING							
1990	High	Low	Open	Close	% Chg	Vol	PE
1							

MOTOR, AIRCRAFT							
1990	High	Low	Open	Close	% Chg	Vol	PE
1							

NEWSPAPERS, PUBLISHERS							
1990	High	Low	Open	Close	% Chg	Vol	PE
1							

OIL, GAS							
1990	High	Low	Open	Close	% Chg	Vol	PE
1							

TOBACCO							
1990	High	Low	Open	Close	% Chg	Vol	PE
1							

TRANSPORT							
1990	High	Low	Open	Close	% Chg	Vol	PE
1							

WATER							
1990	High	Low	Open	Close	% Chg	Vol	PE
1							

Portfolio

PLATINUM

© Times Newspapers Limited
DAILY DIVIDEND
£4,000
Claims required for +37 points

Claimants should ring 0254-53272

OVERSEAS TRADERS							
1990	High	Low	Open	Close	% Chg	Vol	PE
1							

PAPER, PRINT, ADVERTISING							
1990	High	Low	Open	Close	% Chg	Vol	PE
1							

PROPERTY							
1990	High	Low	Open	Close	% Chg	Vol	PE
1							

SHOES, LEATHER							
1990	High	Low	Open	Close	% Chg	Vol	PE
1							

TEXTILES							
1990	High	Low	Open	Close	% Chg	Vol	PE
1							

WATER							
1990	High	Low	Open	Close	% Chg	Vol	PE
1							

TOBACCO							
1990	High	Low	Open	Close	% Chg	Vol	PE
1							

TRANSPORT							
1990	High	Low	Open	Close	% Chg	Vol	PE
1							

WATER							
1990	High	Low	Open	Close	% Chg	Vol	PE
1							

Ex dividend is Ex all b Forecast dividend is Interim payment passed t From at suspension a Dividend and yield exclude a special payment t Pre-merger figures a Forecast earnings a lot other t Ex rights a Ex split or share split t Tax-free ... No significant data.

Red	Offer	Ching	W
1	1	1	1
2	2	2	2
3	3	3	3
4	4	4	4
5	5	5	5
6	6	6	6
7	7	7	7
8	8	8	8
9	9	9	9
10	10	10	10
11	11	11	11
12	12	12	12
13	13	13	13
14	14	14	14
15	15	15	15
16	16	16	16
17	17	17	17
18	18	18	18
19	19	19	19
20	20	20	20
21	21	21	21
22	22	22	22
23	23	23	23
24	24	24	24
25	25	25	25
26	26	26	26
27	27	27	27
28	28	28	28
29	29	29	29
30	30	30	30
31	31	31	31
32	32	32	32
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34	34	34	34
35	35	35	35
36	36	36	36
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38	38	38	38
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40	40	40	40
41	41	41	41
42	42	42	42
43	43	43	43
44	44	44	44
45	45	45	45
46	46	46	46
47	47	47	47
48	48	48	48
49	49	49	49
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90	90	90	90
91	91	91	91
92	92	92	92
93	93	93	93
94	94	94	94
95	95	95	95
96	96	96	96
97	97	97	97
98	98	98	98
99	99	99	99
100	100	100	100

[illegible]

FOREIGN EXCHANGES

Exchange Index compared with 1985 was same at \$9.0 (day's range \$8.8-98.0).

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

OTHER STERLING RATES

Market rates for May 24

Range	Close	1 month	3 months
New York	1.6915-1.6940	1.8920-1.8930	0.97-0.98
Moscow	2.0005-2.0019	2.0042-2.0079	0.23-0.14
Amsterdam	3.1775-0.180	3.1825-0.181	1 1/4-1/8
Frankfurt	2.9225-0.181	2.9275-0.181	29-1/8
Copenhagen	10.7634-0.1789	10.7807-0.1789	4 1/4-1/8
London	1.0642-0.107	1.0690-0.1056	30-3/32
Stockholm	2.9225-0.181	2.9275-0.181	4 1/4-1/8
Dublin	2.4848-249.96	248.72-249.72	40-1/2
Madrid	175.82-176.83	175.97-176.10	16-1/8
Paris	207.92-209.40	207.95-209.40	6-1/8
Oslo	10.8902-0.1025	10.9041-0.1027	3 1/4-3/8
Paris	9.5045-9.5451	9.5310-9.5451	12 1/4-1 1/8
Amsterdam	10.7712-10.2843	10.7712-10.2843	8 1/4-1/8
Tokyo	256.34-256.82	256.34-256.82	1 1/4-1/8
Frankfurt	16.98-16.84	16.85-16.92	11 1/4-1/8
Zurich	2.9225-0.181	2.9275-0.181	4 1/4-1/8

Premium = pr. Discount = ds.

Argentina austral*	8.829-10.8533
Australia dollar	2.2714-2.22
Bahrain dirham	0.6340-0.64
Brazil cruzeiro	86.9842-97.23
Cyprus pound	0.7000-0.80
Indian rupee	6.9151-6.67
Israeli sheqel	2.7033-0.99
Hong Kong dollar	13.6118-13.61
Indonesia rupiah	28.14-29
Italian lire	0.0001-0.0001
Malaysia ringgit	4.3670-4.57
Mexico peso	47.00-48
Swiss franc	2.9272-2.94
Saudi Arabian riyal	3.3085-3.38
Singapore dollar	3.1245-3.128
Taiwan dollar	2.7633-0.77
S Africa rand (cont.)	4.6255-4.47
U A E dirham	6.1720-6.255

* Lloyd's Bank, Rates supplied by Citicorp and Barclays Bank Group

DOLLAR SPOT RATES

Ireland	1.8025-1.6040	Denmark	6.3625-6.3675	Italy	1228.6-1227
Singapore	1.8472-1.8492	West Germany	1.5710-1.5720	Belgium (Cont.)	34.40-34
Malaysia	2.7000-2.7010	Switzerland	1.4182-1.4202	Hong Kong	7.9197-7.918
Amsterdam	10.7712-10.2843	Japan	161.50-161.50	France	6.1720-6.255
Canada	1.1845-1.1855			Austria	14.10-14.10
Sweden	8.0675-8.0775			Spain	11.75-11.75
Norway	8.4450-8.4550				

Rates supplied by Barclays Bank Group and Exch.

MONEY MARKETS

Base Rates %: Clearing Banks 15 Finance Hse 15 1/2
Discount Market Loans 10
Overnight High: 15% Low 14 1/4 Week Rate 14 1/4
Money Market
3 mos 2 mth -14 1/2 3 mth -14 1/2
Selling 2 mth -14 1/2 3 mth -14 1/2
1 mth 12 1/2-14 1/2 3 mth 14 1/2-14 1/2 6 mth 14 1/2-14 1/2
Weekly Bills (Discount %): 1 mth 15 1/2
3 mth 15 1/2 6 mth 15 1/2 12 mth 15 1/2
Interbank (%): Overnight open 15 close 15
1 mth 15 1/2-2 9 mth 15 1/2-2 3 mth 15 1/2-2
6 mth 15 1/2-2 9 mth 15 1/2-2 12 mth 15 1/2-2
Local Authority Deposits (%):
1 mth 7 day 15 1/2
3 mth 15 1/2 6 mth 15 1/2 12 mth 14 1/2
Selling Cash (%): 1 mth 15 1/2-14 1/2
12 mth 15-14 1/2
Dollar Cdn (%): 1 mth 8.20-8.15
3 mth 8.25-8.20 6 mth 8.42-8.37 12 mth 8.62-8.57
Bankers' Acceptance Cdn (%):
1 mth 15-14 1/2 3 mth 15 1/2-15
6 mth 15 1/2-2 9 mth 15 1/2-2 12 mth 14 1/2-14 1/2

ECGD

Pined Rate Sterling Export Finance. Make-up day: April 30, 1980. August rates May 28, 1980 to June 25, 1980.

EURO MONEY DEPOSITS %

Currency	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Dollar:				
Call: 8 1/4-7 1/4	8 1/4-7 1/4	8 1/4-7 1/4	8 1/4-7 1/4	8 1/4-7 1/4
Call: 8 1/4-7 1/4	8 1/4-7 1/4	8 1/4-7 1/4	8 1/4-7 1/4	8 1/4-7 1/4
French Franc:				
Call: 8 1/4-7 1/4	8 1/4-7 1/4	8 1/4-7 1/4	8 1/4-7 1/4	8 1/4-7 1/4
Swiss Franc:				
Call: 8 1/4-7 1/4	8 1/4-7 1/4	8 1/4-7 1/4	8 1/4-7 1/4	8 1/4-7 1/4
Call: 7 1/4-7 1/4	7 1/4-7 1/4	7 1/4-7 1/4	7 1/4-7 1/4	7 1/4-7 1/4

GOLD BULLION (Per ounce)

Open: \$369.25-366.75 Close: \$365.35-366.75
High: \$373

Spot Silver: \$5.28-5.29 (E3.11)

[illegible]

COMMODITIES

PRECIOUS METALS				
SOL 1950: Afternoon May 28, 1950 to June 25, 1950				
SOL 1954: Afternoon May 28, 1954 to June 25, 1954				
SOL 1958: Afternoon May 28, 1958 to June 25, 1958				
SOL 1962: Afternoon May 28, 1962 to June 25, 1962				
SOL 1966: Afternoon May 28, 1966 to June 25, 1966				
SOL 1970: Afternoon May 28, 1970 to June 25, 1970				
SOL 1974: Afternoon May 28, 1974 to June 25, 1974				
SOL 1978: Afternoon May 28, 1978 to June 25, 1978				
SOL 1982: Afternoon May 28, 1982 to June 25, 1982				
SOL 1986: Afternoon May 28, 1986 to June 25, 1986				
SOL 1990: Afternoon May 28, 1990 to June 25, 1990				
SOL 1994: Afternoon May 28, 1994 to June 25, 1994				
SOL 1998: Afternoon May 28, 1998 to June 25, 1998				
SOL 2002: Afternoon May 28, 2002 to June 25, 2002				
SOL 2006: Afternoon May 28, 2006 to June 25, 2006				
SOL 2010: Afternoon May 28, 2010 to June 25, 2010				
SOL 2014: Afternoon May 28, 2014 to June 25, 2014				
SOL 2018: Afternoon May 28, 2018 to June 25, 2018				
SOL 2022: Afternoon May 28, 2022 to June 25, 2022				
SOL 2026: Afternoon May 28, 2026 to June 25, 2026				
SOL 2030: Afternoon May 28, 2030 to June 25, 2030				
SOL 2034: Afternoon May 28, 2034 to June 25, 2034				
SOL 2038: Afternoon May 28, 2038 to June 25, 2038				
SOL 2042: Afternoon May 28, 2042 to June 25, 2042				
SOL 2046: Afternoon May 28, 2046 to June 25, 2046				
SOL 2050: Afternoon May 28, 2050 to June 25, 2050				
SOL 2054: Afternoon May 28, 2054 to June 25, 2054				
SOL 2058: Afternoon May 28, 2058 to June 25, 2058				
SOL 2062: Afternoon May 28, 2062 to June 25, 2062				
SOL 2066: Afternoon May 28, 2066 to June 25, 2066				
SOL 2070: Afternoon May 28, 2070 to June 25, 2070				
SOL 2074: Afternoon May 28, 2074 to June 25, 2074				
SOL 2078: Afternoon May 28, 2078 to June 25, 2078				
SOL 2082: Afternoon May 28, 2082 to June 25, 2082				
SOL 2086: Afternoon May 28, 2086 to June 25, 2086				
SOL 2090: Afternoon May 28, 2090 to June 25, 2090				
SOL 2094: Afternoon May 28, 2094 to June 25, 2094				
SOL 2098: Afternoon May 28, 2098 to June 25, 2098				
SOL 2102: Afternoon May 28, 2102 to June 25, 2102				
SOL 2106: Afternoon May 28, 2106 to June 25, 2106				
SOL 2110: Afternoon May 28, 2110 to June 25, 2110				
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SOL 2258: Afternoon May 28, 2258 to June 25, 2258				
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SOL 2282: Afternoon May 28, 2282 to June 25, 2282				
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SOL 2526: Afternoon May 28, 2526 to June 25, 2526				
SOL 2530: Afternoon May 28, 2530 to June 25, 2530				
SOL 2534: Afternoon May 28, 253				

11

LONDON FOX			LONDON METAL EXCHANGE				
used the number of	COGGA	AMT Features	Official prices/volume previous day	Rudolf Wolff	Vol		
or implied at a bounce	May 948-940	Mar 1013-1012					
traded the down on	Aug 947-945	May 1287-1293	(/t/tonnes)	3 month	Vol		
imposed the losses,	Sep 982-980	Jul 1043-1041					
	Oct 988-987	Oct 1041-1039					
	NOV 987-985	Jan 1114-1111					
US OIL, AMT Features	AMT 945-944	Jan 995-994	Copper/Gals A	1591.0-1593.0	1514.0-1515.0	606675	Shanghai
149.75-49.50	Aug 944-943	Jul 1011-1009	Lead	492.5-493.0	488.0-489.0	606675	Shanghai
149.75-49.50	Nov 943-942	Oct 1011-1009	Zinc Spec '98	1778.0-1779.0	1714.0-1712.0	190175	Shanghai
149.75-49.50	Sep 942-941	Nov 1011-1009	Aluminium '98	3010.0-3020.0	3400.0-3440.0	8820	Bryl S.S.
149.75-49.50	Nov 941-940	May 1287-1293	Nickel*	1545.0-1547.0	1571.0-1572.0	30475	Shanghai
149.75-49.50	Nov 940-939	May 1287-1293		8350.0-8375.0	8430.0-8435.0	13170	Shanghai
149.75-49.50	Nov 939-938	C Caudal	(* per tonne)				
149.75-49.50	Nov 938-937	Vol 2668	L (cents per Troy oz)				
149.75-49.50	Nov 937-936	Mar 310.2-10.6	MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMODITIES				
149.75-49.50	Nov 936-935	Oct 310.2-10.6	Use live prices (p/ton)	A's/g fatstock prices for representative			
149.75-49.50	Nov 935-934	Oct 308.0-10.0	US Cattle (p/ton)	markets on May 84			
149.75-49.50	Nov 934-933	Aug 308.0-10.0	Live Pigs (p/ton)				
149.75-49.50	Nov 933-932	Aug 308.0-10.0	Live Pigs (p/ton)				
149.75-49.50	Nov 932-931	Aug 308.0-10.0	Live Pigs (p/ton)				
149.75-49.50	Nov 931-930	Aug 308.0-10.0	Live Pigs (p/ton)				
149.75-49.50	Nov 930-929	Aug 308.0-10.0	Live Pigs (p/ton)				
149.75-49.50	Nov 929-928	Aug 308.0-10.0	Live Pigs (p/ton)				
149.75-49.50	Nov 928-927	Aug 308.0-10.0	Live Pigs (p/ton)				
149.75-49.50	Nov 927-926	Aug 308.0-10.0	Live Pigs (p/ton)				
149.75-49.50	Nov 926-925	Aug 308.0-10.0	Live Pigs (p/ton)				
149.75-49.50	Nov 925-924	Aug 308.0-10.0	Live Pigs (p/ton)				
149.75-49.50	Nov 924-923	Aug 308.0-10.0	Live Pigs (p/ton)				
149.75-49.50	Nov 923-922	Aug 308.0-10.0	Live Pigs (p/ton)				
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149.75-49.50	Nov 919-918	Aug 308.0-10.0	Live Pigs (p/ton)				
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149.75-49.50	Nov 915-914	Aug 308.0-10.0	Live Pigs (p/ton)				
149.75-49.50	Nov 914-913	Aug 308.0-10.0	Live Pigs (p/ton)				
149.75-49.50	Nov 913-912	Aug 308.0-10.0	Live Pigs (p/ton)				
149.75-49.50	Nov 912-911	Aug 308.0-10.0	Live Pigs (p/ton)				
149.75-49.50	Nov 911-910	Aug 308.0-10.0	Live Pigs (p/ton)				
149.75-49.50	Nov 910-909	Aug 308.0-10.0	Live Pigs (p/ton)				
149.75-49.50	Nov 909-908	Aug 308.0-10.0	Live Pigs (p/ton)				
149.75-49.50	Nov 908-907	Aug 308.0-10.0	Live Pigs (p/ton)				
149.75-49.50	Nov 907-906	Aug 308.0-10.0	Live Pigs (p/ton)				
149.75-49.50	Nov 906-905	Aug 308.0-10.0	Live Pigs (p/ton)				
149.75-49.50	Nov 905-904	Aug 308.0-10.0	Live Pigs (p/ton)				
149.75-49.50	Nov 904-903	Aug 308.0-10.0	Live Pigs (p/ton)				
149.75-49.50	Nov 903-902	Aug 308.0-10.0	Live Pigs (p/ton)				
149.75-49.50	Nov 902-901	Aug 308.0-10.0	Live Pigs (p/ton)				
149.75-49.50	Nov 901-900	Aug 308.0-10.0	Live Pigs (p/ton)				
149.75-49.50	Nov 900-899	Aug 308.0-10.0	Live Pigs (p/ton)				
149.75-49.50	Nov 899-898	Aug 308.0-10.0	Live Pigs (p/ton)				
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149.75-49.50	Nov 887-886	Aug 308.0-10.0	Live Pigs (p/ton)				
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149.75-49.50	Nov 883-882	Aug 308.0-10.0	Live Pigs (p/ton)				
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149.75-49.50	Nov 878-877	Aug 308.0-10.0	Live Pigs (p/ton)				
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149.75-49.50	Nov 873-872	Aug 308.0-10.0	Live Pigs (p/ton)				
149.75-49.50	Nov 872-871	Aug 308.0-10.0	Live Pigs (p/ton)				
149.75-49.50	Nov 871-870	Aug 308.0-10.0	Live Pigs (p/ton)				
149.75-49.50	Nov 870-869	Aug 308.0-10.0	Live Pigs (p/ton)				
149.75-49.50	Nov 869-868	Aug 308.0-10.0	Live Pigs (p/ton)				
149.75-49.50	Nov 868-867	Aug 308.0-10.0	Live Pigs (p/ton)				
149.75-49.50	Nov 867-866	Aug 308.0-10.0	Live Pigs (p/ton)				
149.75-49.50	Nov 866-865	Aug 308.0-10.0	Live Pigs (p/ton)				
149.75-49.50	Nov 865-864	Aug 308.0-10.0	Live Pigs (p/ton)				
149.75-49.50	Nov 864-863	Aug 308.0-10.0	Live Pigs (p/ton)				
149.75-49.50	Nov 863-862	Aug 308.0-10.0	Live Pigs (p/ton)				
149.75-49.50	Nov 862-861	Aug 308.0-10.0	Live Pigs (p/ton)				
149.75-49.50	Nov 861-860	Aug 308.0-10.0	Live Pigs (p/ton)				
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149.75-49.50	Nov 858-857	Aug 308.0-10.0	Live Pigs (p/ton)				
149.75-49.50	Nov 857-856	Aug 308.0-10.0	Live Pigs (p/ton)				
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149.75-49.50	Nov 850-849	Aug 308.0-10.0	Live Pigs (p/ton)				
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149.75-49.50	Nov 846-845	Aug 308.0-10.0	Live Pigs (p/ton)				
149.75-49.50	Nov 845-844	Aug 308.0-10.0	Live Pigs (p/ton)				
149.75-49.50	Nov 844-843	Aug 308.0-10.0	Live Pigs (p/ton)				
149.75-49.50	Nov 843-842	Aug 308.0-10.0	Live Pigs (p/ton)				
149.75-49.50	Nov 842-841	Aug 308.0-10.0	Live Pigs (p/ton)				
149.75-49.50	Nov 841-840	Aug 308.0-10.0	Live Pigs (p/ton)				
149.75-49.50	Nov 840-839	Aug 308.0-10.0	Live Pigs (p/ton)				
149.75-49.50	Nov 839-838	Aug 308.0-10.0	Live Pigs (p/ton)				
149.75-49.50	Nov 838-837	Aug 308.0-10.0	Live Pigs (p/ton)				
149.75-49.50	Nov 837-836	Aug 308.0-10.0	Live Pigs (p/ton)				
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149.75-49.50	Nov 835-834	Aug 308.0-10.0	Live Pigs (p/ton)				
149.75-49.50	Nov 834-833	Aug 308.0-10.0	Live Pigs (p/ton)				
149.75-49.50	Nov 833-832	Aug 308.0-10.0	Live Pigs (p/ton)				
149.75-49.50	Nov 832-831	Aug 308.0-10.0	Live Pigs (p/ton)				
149.75-49.50	Nov 831-830	Aug 308.0-10.0	Live Pigs (p/ton)				
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149.75-49.50	Nov 828-827	Aug 308.0-10.0	Live Pigs (p/ton)				
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149.75-49.50	Nov 818-817	Aug 308.0-10.0	Live Pigs (p/ton)				
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149.75-49.50	Nov 809-808	Aug 308.0-10.0	Live Pigs (p/ton)				
149.75-49.50	Nov 808-807	Aug 308.0-10.0	Live Pigs (p/ton)				
149.75-49.50	Nov 807-806	Aug 308.0-10.0	Live Pigs (p/ton)				
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149.75-49.50	Nov 803-802	Aug 308.0-10.0	Live Pigs (p/ton)				
149.75-49.50	Nov 802-801	Aug 308.0-10.0	Live Pigs (p/ton)				
149.75-49.50	Nov 801-800	Aug 308.0-10.0	Live Pigs (p/ton)				
149.75-49.50	Nov 800-799	Aug 308.0-10.0	Live Pigs (p/ton)				
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149.75-49.50	Nov 797-796	Aug 308.0-10.0	Live Pigs (p/ton)				
149.75-49.50	Nov 796-795	Aug 308.0-10.0	Live Pigs (p/ton)				
149.75-49.50	Nov 795-794	Aug 308.0-10.0	Live Pigs (p/ton)				
149.75-49.50	Nov 794-793	Aug 308.0-10.0	Live Pigs (p/ton)				
149.75-49.50	Nov 793-792	Aug 308.0-10.0	Live Pigs (p/ton)				
149.75-49.50	Nov 792-791	Aug 308.0-10.0	Live Pigs (p/ton)				
149.75-49.50	Nov 791-790	Aug 308.0-10.0	Live Pigs (p/ton)				
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149.75-49.50	Nov 788-787	Aug 308.0-10.0	Live Pigs (p/ton)				
149.75-49.50	Nov 787-786	Aug 308.0-10.0	Live Pigs (p/ton)				
149.75-49.50	Nov 786-785	Aug 308.0-10.0	Live Pigs (p/ton)				
149.75-49.50	Nov 785-784	Aug 308.0-10.0	Live Pigs (p/ton)	</			

London Oil Reports		
trading in many European countries ended		
and, after so many down days, crude trading		
was not affected. Late prices had risen up		
products but pre long weekend start trading		
WIDE CLE (C) (US\$ PER BBL)		
ent Price	15.90	+35
ent 1000	15.90	+35
1 day Jul	16.70	+405
1 day Jul	16.10	+35
1 day Jul	16.80	+405
SPECIES (US\$ PER BBL)		
ent Price	15.90	+35
ent 1000	15.90	+35
1 day Jul	16.70	+405
1 day Jul	16.10	+35
1 day Jul	16.80	+405
SPECIES (US\$ PER BBL)		
ent Price	15.90	+35
ent 1000	15.90	+35
1 day Jul	16.70	+405
1 day Jul	16.10	+35
1 day Jul	16.80	+405
SPECIES (US\$ PER BBL)		
ent Price	15.90	+35
ent 1000	15.90	+35
1 day Jul	16.70	+405
1 day Jul	16.10	+35
1 day Jul	16.80	+405
SPECIES (US\$ PER BBL)		
ent Price	15.90	+35
ent 1000	15.90	+35
1 day Jul	16.70	+405
1 day Jul	16.10	+35
1 day Jul	16.80	+405
SPECIES (US\$ PER BBL)		
ent Price	15.90	+35
ent 1000	15.90	+35
1 day Jul	16.70	+405
1 day Jul	16.10	+35
1 day Jul	16.80	+405
SPECIES (US\$ PER BBL)		
ent Price	15.90	+35
ent 1000	15.90	+35
1 day Jul	16.70	+405
1 day Jul	16.10	+35
1 day Jul	16.80	+405
SPECIES (US\$ PER BBL)		
ent Price	15.90	+35
ent 1000	15.90	+35
1 day Jul	16.70	+405
1 day Jul	16.10	+35
1 day Jul	16.80	+405
SPECIES (US\$ PER BBL)		
ent Price	15.90	+35
ent 1000	15.90	+35
1 day Jul	16.70	+405
1 day Jul	16.10	+35
1 day Jul	16.80	+405
SPECIES (US\$ PER BBL)		
ent Price	15.90	+35
ent 1000	15.90	+35
1 day Jul	16.70	+405
1 day Jul	16.10	+35
1 day Jul	16.80	+405
SPECIES (US\$ PER BBL)		
ent Price	15.90	+35
ent 1000	15.90	+35
1 day Jul	16.70	+405
1 day Jul	16.10	+35
1 day Jul	16.80	+405
SPECIES (US\$ PER BBL)		
ent Price	15.90	+35
ent 1000	15.90	+35
1 day Jul	16.70	+405
1 day Jul	16.10	+35
1 day Jul	16.80	+405
SPECIES (US\$ PER BBL)		
ent Price	15.90	+35
ent 1000	15.90	+35
1 day Jul	16.70	+405
1 day Jul	16.10	+35
1 day Jul	16.80	+405
SPECIES (US\$ PER BBL)		
ent Price	15.90	+35
ent 1000	15.90	+35
1 day Jul	16.70	+405
1 day Jul	16.10	+35
1 day Jul	16.80	+405
SPECIES (US\$ PER BBL)		
ent Price	15.90	+35
ent 1000	15.90	+35
1 day Jul	16.70	+405
1 day Jul	16.10	+35
1 day Jul	16.80	+405
SPECIES (US\$ PER BBL)		
ent Price	15.90	+35
ent 1000	15.90	+35
1 day Jul	16.70	+405
1 day Jul	16.10	+35
1 day Jul	16.80	+405
SPECIES (US\$ PER BBL)		
ent Price	15.90	+35
ent 1000	15.90	+35
1 day Jul	16.70	+405
1 day Jul	16.10	+35
1 day Jul	16.80	+405
SPECIES (US\$ PER BBL)		
ent Price	15.90	+35
ent 1000	15.90	+35
1 day Jul	16	

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Rebirth of England's great powerhouse

Much of the typical industry of the West Midlands failed in the recession. Today the story is one of reconstruction, high technology, diversification and falling unemployment

The seven local authorities making up the West Midlands conurbation inevitably pursue separate destinies but are bound by the common heritage of heavy industrialization that made it the nation's manufacturing powerhouse. Their fortunes were so inter-related that the recession of the late 1970s and early 1980s dragged the whole region down into an abyss. Industries collapsed, high unemployment spread like a disease and swathes of land were left derelict. The decline shattered much of the traditional manufacturing sector, the bedrock of its earlier prosperity.

The West Midlands, the centre of the car manufacturing and component industry and still renowned for its quality engineering, has seen its unemployment figure fall progressively during the past few years and is attracting computer-based, hi-tech companies, many moving in from other parts of the country. In the late 1970s and early 1980s the region 700 foreign companies alone are estimated to be operating.

The bad memory of the recession has taught the West Midlands that diversification into modern industries and other job-creating sectors is crucial for its future prosperity.

The region has also learned that it has a prime asset in its location at the centre of the national motorway network and that many companies are no longer tied to specific sites and can put down roots almost anywhere if the communications are good.

Authorities in the conurbation are working hard to improve its image. They know there are still many people who regard it as a blighted area with a poor physical environment, although that attitude is changing. However, environmental improvements are now a top priority, helped by European Community funding.

Worries about skill shortages in the region remain and training schemes are a necessity, although people here claim that traditionally the work-force has proved itself to be adaptable. High interest rates, the slowdown in the economy and evidence of jobs being shed in other parts of Britain

are also causing nervous glances at economic indicators.

However, the health of the West Midlands car industry has always been regarded as a good indication of the health of the region itself. Rover, newly acquired by British Aerospace, is recruiting more workers at its huge assembly plant at Longbridge, Birmingham, and demand for Land-Rovers and Range Rovers from the Solihull plant is undiminished. Jaguar, taken over by Ford, remains a large employer in Coventry. Also in Coventry, at Ryton, Peugeot-Talbot is booming.

Although the seven authorities still have much in common and all benefit from specific regional assets, the sense that they would seek

to begin its strategy costing at least £1 billion to revitalize an area of 10 square miles for industry, commerce and housing. The corporation was set up by the Government, unlike the development agency that is performing a similar £1 billion task in east Birmingham. This agency was created by five big construction companies in partnership with the city council.

Coventry remains an important manufacturing centre, and optimism is growing at the number of new jobs being created by smaller, hi-tech companies established in modern business parks and by institutions that are moving to the city.

Solihull is the only authority of the seven not to be controlled by Labour. The borough suffered less severely than the others during the recession, but the ruling Tory group has tired of its image as merely a prosperous suburb of Birmingham. It wants to promote Solihull as a centre for modern, "clean" hi-tech companies in attractive, unintrusive business parks near the motorway.

All seven authorities benefit from Birmingham International Airport, which links the region with important British and European centres. The airport dealt with 3.5 million passengers in 1989 and work has started on a new Euro-Hub terminal, which will cost £60 million, to increase the capacity.

Plans for a £1 billion Midland Metro light rail system across the conurbation are also advancing.

'The authorities are working hard to improve the area's image'

New prosperity in their own way was intensified when in 1986 the Government abolished the West Midlands County Council, an authority that had encompassed their areas and had enabled them to speak at least part of the time with one voice.

Birmingham, the biggest authority, with a population of a million, has charted a new course as an international business city, based on the authority's £150 million International Convention Centre, which is to open next year offering conference and convention facilities to complement the National Exhibition Centre. A £50 million indoor sports arena is part of the estimated £2 billion worth of developments under way or scheduled in Birmingham.

The four Black Country boroughs of Wolverhampton, Dudley, Sandwell and Walsall are, like Birmingham, keen to improve the perception of the area and raise its profile to make it more attractive to investors. The four combined in an initiative to carry out this task and to draw in funds from the European Community to help with the regeneration.

Three years ago the Black Country Development Corpora-



Bright looks for the Black Country: the Dudley businessmen Don and Roy Richardson take stock from the top of Dudley Castle

Identity crisis conquered

A few years ago a number of people suggested that the boroughs of Wolverhampton, Dudley, Walsall and Sandwell should change the collective name of their area from the Black Country to something more positive. They thought the title conjured up an unfortunate image of smoking chimneys and grimy streets once associated with the area during its heyday as an industrial powerhouse.

The Black Country name ultimately remained because councillors and officials of the four authorities believed it helped create a specific identity for the area.

The Black Country, after serious decline, confirms the pride in its traditional name

Although the name stayed, the boroughs were keen to create a new image for the Black Country as it tried to overcome the damage of the recession in the early 1980s and promote the area as a place for industry to thrive again.

As a result, the boroughs joined together in an initiative, still being pursued, to raise the profile of the Black Country, attract new companies and replace some of the tens of thousands of jobs lost in the traditional industries, especially steel and engineering, for which it was famous.

The initiative now embraces a number of common concerns, including the need for European Community and government funds, a better environment, hopes for the tourism industry and improved communications.

Viv Astling, chief executive of Dudley Council and former chief executive of Walsall, says the joint initiative began when the four authorities realized they were not doing as well as neighbouring Birmingham in overcoming the impact of the recession, although together they were geographically bigger and had a larger population. The boroughs believed they

were overshadowed by Birmingham and that they had to do more to assert themselves both nationally and in seeking European Community funds. The boroughs now jointly employ a European liaison officer. Since 1984 they have received £47 million from the Community for infrastructure work and training and £28.5 million for the 1989-91 period to help develop the local economy and improve the area's image.

In 1987 the Government recognized the appalling and rapid decline of the area and created the Black Country Development Corporation. Ministers charged the corporation with the task of reclaiming more than 1,500 acres of blighted land left derelict by industrial recession and lay the groundwork for regeneration.

Mr Astling says the Black Country initiative made a priority of environmental improvements to help change the area's image. The Black Country now boasts Britain's first urban forestry unit aimed at "greening" urban sites. A new Black Country route is under construction and the area would benefit from a proposed £1

billion Midland Metro light rail system, which is intended to link Birmingham and Wolverhampton and, eventually, Walsall and Dudley.

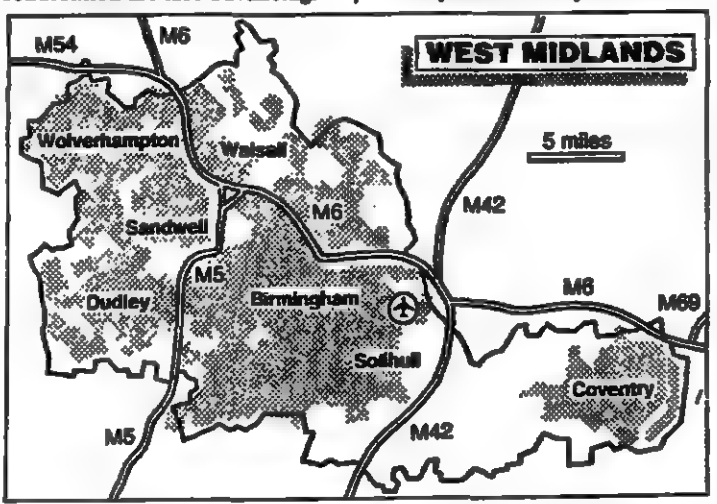
A freight terminal interchange in the Black Country has the potential to provide a direct link with the Channel Tunnel.

Mr Astling says Merry Hill, a £1 billion, 1.2 million sq ft shopping and leisure city on the site of a former steelworks in Dudley, which has a £20 million monorail, epitomized the decline of one great industry and the start of an entirely new service sector.

Merry Hill has been created by the Black Country twins Don and Roy Richardson, who now want to build a 2,000ft tower, the world's tallest, on the site. The entrepreneurs believe it would become a regional, national and international attraction.

In spite of the recession, the Black Country boroughs still make up an important manufacturing and engineering centre. Unemployment is now about the national average.

Mr Astling says of the Black Country's proposed name change: "Some people did suggest it, but I have not seen anyone arguing that the name of the Black Forest in Germany, or Blackpool, should be changed. It is something we should revel in."



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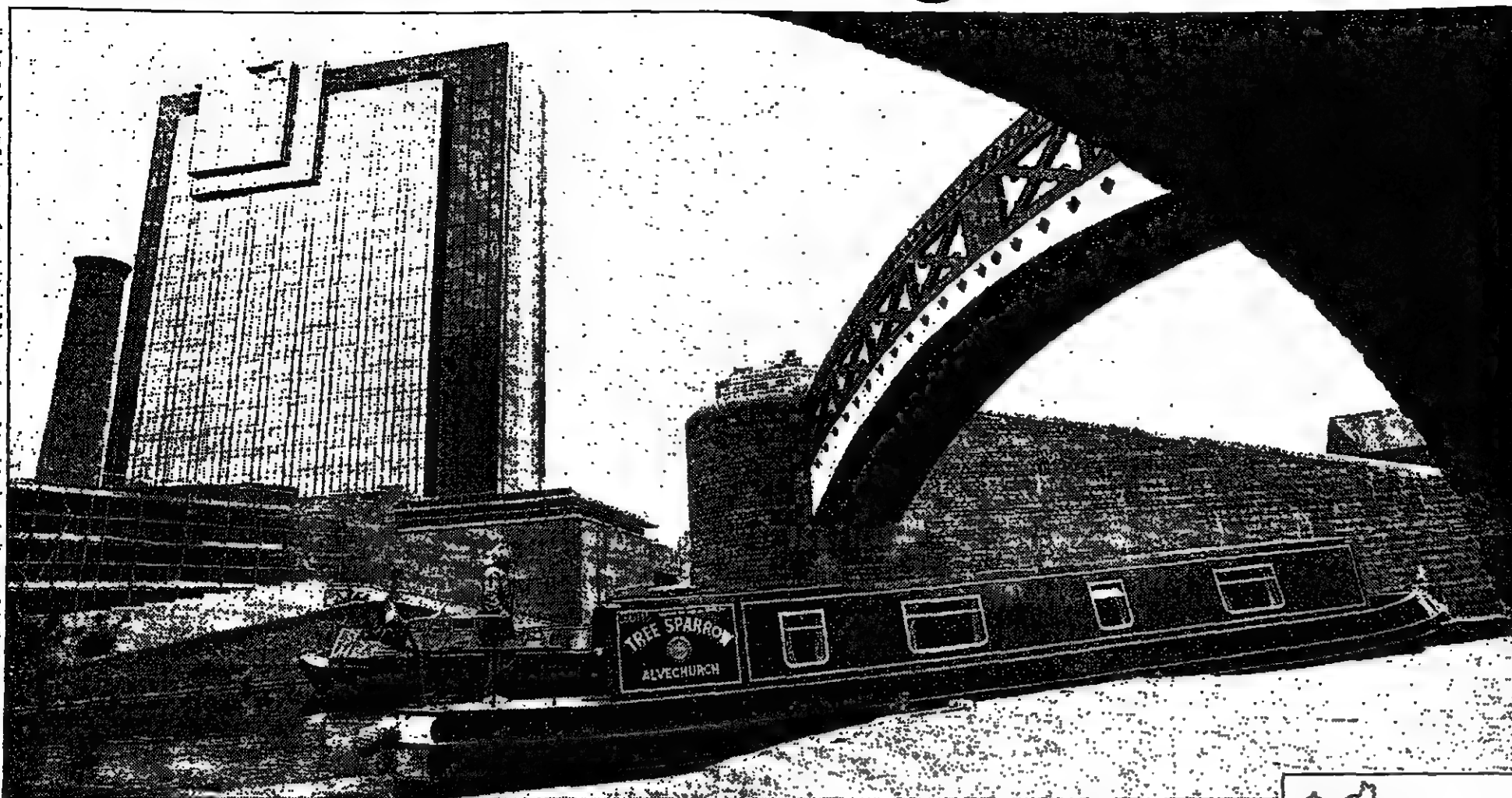


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Britain's second city aims to provide an unrivalled centre for events as its recovery gets under way

New mood to bring in a billion



Ancient and modern: a typical Midlands barge on Birmingham's canal system contrasts with the modern architecture of the city's Hyatt Hotel

Birmingham's flagship development, the £150 million International Convention Centre (ICC), opens in less than a year. Many of the city's hopes depend on it. The ICC is the foundation stone of Birmingham's effort to be recognized as an international business city and to diversify further into the service sector, a process begun by the success of its expanding National Exhibition Centre (NEC).

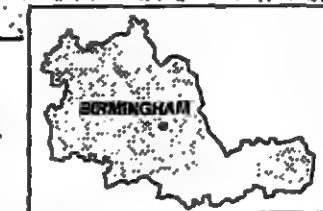
Birmingham retains its historic manufacturing base, but it received a harsh lesson when the recession destroyed

tens of thousands of jobs in traditional "metal-bashing" industries. Unemployment has since fallen progressively and prosperity is returning to many of the companies that survived, including Rover, which is recruiting again at its huge Longbridge plant. However, while the service sector is built up, the city is striving to create jobs and wealth in computer-based industries on modern business parks. Companies are being wooed to the area by its reputation for a skilled work-force and good communications at the heart of the motorway network and

near an expanding international airport. An overall strategy also includes plans to improve the physical face of Birmingham and its cultural and artistic credentials, a policy that has achieved some notable coups. The ICC is promoted as having Britain's best conference, convention and concert facilities. Teams are travelling the world to attract customers and bookings as far ahead as the year 2000 have been secured. Birmingham claims the ICC and the NEC together will be able to offer unrivalled space for events.

The city council and industrial leaders believe the ICC's potential has already boosted confidence in Birmingham's future so convincingly that it is now a powerful magnet attracting other investment. Birmingham is becoming a booming commercial centre and developments under way or scheduled, including offices, business parks, shopping centres and hotel projects, are estimated at £2 billion. One of the biggest and most ambitious schemes is Birmingham Heartlands, a plan to regenerate 2,500 acres of derelict land in the east of the city

by creating new industrial, commercial, residential, retail and leisure facilities. One of the aims will be to raise the city's national profile. The strategy to attract £1 billion of investment for new developments in that area is being carried out by Britain's first private sector-led development agency, in which five big construction companies and the Labour-controlled city council are partners. This effort shows the degree of public-private co-operation in schemes to continue Birmingham's revival. As its prosperity advances,



despite the recent economic slowdown, Birmingham is trying to improve its appearance and create a city centre in keeping with the image of an international business centre.

The 1960s redevelopment created an inner ring road system that became a "concrete collar" and forced pedestrians into subways. A ground-level boulevard system is now in the offing and priority will be given to pedestrians. Seven quarters near the centre have been identified for improvements to enhance their distinctive characteristics.

The city fathers knew that in recent years Birmingham was regarded as having only one important cultural asset — the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, under its conductor, Simon Rattle, which is moving to a 2,000-seater concert hall in the ICC. Although they thought this perception unfair, they realized it had to be changed.

The city then held detailed talks with the London-based Sadler's Wells Royal Ballet, and as a result the famous company announced it was to move to a new home at the Birmingham Hippodrome Theatre. A £4 million headquarters is being built in time for the transfer later this year. Only a few weeks ago the D'Oyly Carte Opera also announced it had found a new home at Birmingham's Alexandra Theatre.

Team with a mission to rebuild

The Black Country Development Corporation had no mean task when it was created three years ago. Its job was to plan and launch the revitalization of a large area that had been an industrial powerhouse for generations before crashing into dereliction under the hammer blows of the recession. New industries, business parks and offices, homes, shopping centres and leisure facilities are needed, together with up to 30,000 extra jobs, to restore the fortunes of the area where steelworks, engineering and other factories once thrived. The strategy to make it an attractive place in which to live and work is now under way in what is expected to be a 10-year programme.

The corporation, acting as a catalyst and armed with a £150 million budget, will eventually need to attract between £1 billion and £1.5 billion of private-sector investment for new projects within a 10-square-mile area. Most of this falls within the Sandwell and Walsall boroughs, but parts of Wolverhampton are also included. The economically and environmentally depressed area is estimated still to provide jobs for more than 50,000 people, but more job opportunities and new housing are crucial for the future.

The task since 1987 has been to assemble fragmented parcels of blighted land, clear away widespread dereliction and build roads and new sites for development, all within an environmental plan that will include the planting of thousands of trees and the restoration of many miles of canal.

The Government is meeting the £140 million cost of a five-mile spine road linking with the M5 and M6, which will open up 400 acres for development. Access would also be increased by the proposed Midland Metro light rail system linking Birmingham and Wolverhampton.

The corporation has identified 1,500 acres of derelict land as the regeneration "target" area. Of this, 700 acres have been acquired and are being reclaimed. An estimated £100 million worth of private investment is being spent on new schemes and a further £200 million will be committed in the next 18 months.

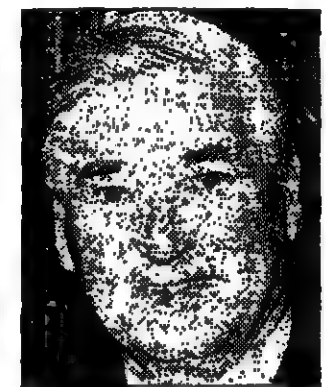
Sir William Francis, the corporation's chairman, says planning permission has already been given for 27 million sq ft of manufacturing space, 27 million sq ft of non-food retail space and 807,000 sq ft of office accommodation. Additionally, 1,700 homes are being built and, by the end of this year, 1,000 acres of derelict land will have been acquired. "What matters most to us is what a developer is going to put on a Black Country site, for example, in terms of how many jobs they

will create and how they will improve the environment," Sir William says. "That is one of the benefits of an organization like ours."

One of the most ambitious schemes is Sandwell 2000, a £300 million project involving Sandwell Council and the Speyhawk property group, to create four million sq ft of retail, commercial and leisure facilities. New homes are being created at Trivale in a canal-side setting, a 75-acre business park is being built on a former steelworks site, and a 12-screen cinema is planned at Black Country Gate.

The corporation has recovered all of a £340,000 city grant it invested to stimulate a flagship project for 250 new homes at Darlaston. The developers repaid the money within 18 months because the first new homes were quickly sold, most of them to local first-time buyers.

At a recent London exhibition Sir William told developers and financiers about River Point, which is among the first of the corporation's wholly owned commercial sites to be released. The 16



Sir William: "benefits"

acres are being offered for "high-grade" commercial or light industrial use.

The area's canal network is being regarded as a first-rate environmental asset to be renewed and become an integral part of regeneration. The corporation and British Waterways appointed consultants to advise on improvements to the waterways, towpaths and immediate surroundings for tourism and recreation.

The corporation and Sandwell, Dudley, Walsall and Wolverhampton Councils are among the sponsors of the Black Country Urban Forestry Unit, the first of its kind in Britain, set up to "green" the urban area by tree planting on under-used and unused land.

David Morgan, the corporation's chief executive, says: "There are developments going on where we can see steelwork coming out of the ground. We have passed the preparatory stage and we are now heavily into implementation. What underpins our confidence is the evidence of building and we are looking forward to the next few years with terrific excitement."

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Foreign cash and 18,000 jobs

The development agency believes that money from overseas is vital to the revival of the West Midlands

The West Midlands Development Agency estimates that it has helped to create 18,000 jobs in four years by attracting overseas investors. The region now has 700 foreign companies. Together with the Department of Trade and Industry, the agency was involved in months of negotiations with Reinshagen, the West German wiring systems manufacturer, which is now to establish a £6 million plant in Coventry to supply British motor manufacturers. It will create 450 jobs.

Reinshagen will be one of 170 West German companies in the region. Such discussions to bring foreign investment into the West Midlands are at the heart of the agency's work, often carried out against intense competition from Europe and other parts of Britain.

Reinshagen's move results from the agency's strategy of concentrating on investment appropriate to the region, especially automotive components. Simon Armstrong, the agency's chief executive, says the Reinshagen project could easily have gone to another location. However, he says: "The region has been traditionally strong in car manufacturing and the resurgence of its components industry now gives it the potential to become the capital of the European car industry by 1992."

The agency expects in the next few weeks to announce another new investment in the



Welcomed: Simon Armstrong with Masao Otsuka, of Birmingham's Bank of Tokyo

components sector involving a joint Japanese-European company and eventually creating several hundred jobs.

The scale of foreign investment in the West Midlands since it began in earnest in the 1960s is estimated to have reached £2.5 billion and to have created 100,000 jobs.

The agency believes the region benefits in other ways. Incoming foreign companies buy their equipment locally, train employees in new skills

and use local research and development and business services. A recent survey showed that European Community countries have been increasing their investment. The Community has contributed 39 per cent of all overseas investment in the West Midlands, compared with 36 per cent from the United States.

The agency was set up in 1984 as the West Midlands Industrial Development Association to help regenerate the

region after the recession. It is funded by the Department of Trade and Industry, local authorities and the private sector. It has been relaunched with its new name and a strengthened team.

Mr Armstrong, a former general manager of the Falkland Development Corporation, took over last year. He believes the opportunities are increasing for the West Midlands to capitalize further on investment from countries

including the US to Japan, Taiwan, South Korea and Hong Kong, particularly as the single European market approaches and companies seek a European foothold. The number of Japanese banks now in Birmingham, for example, has risen to five.

Mr Armstrong says: "Our local companies will have the advantage of being able to develop with the changes happening around them, rather than suddenly being put out of business by a flood of new technology imports."

Inward investment is proving to be the fastest and most effective way of regenerating our industrial base."

He realizes there is some resentment that foreign investment should be so strongly encouraged in the important sectors of a region with a proud manufacturing tradition. However, he replies that if foreign investors do not put their money into Britain they will place it elsewhere in the European Community and the resulting products will flood the British market.

Mr Armstrong is also convinced the foreign investment is inevitable while there are "huge gaps" in British industry. He says: "There is a real possibility that if British companies do not strive to achieve global standards and become competitive on a global scale, they will be pushed out of domestic markets by suppliers who have realized the global challenge."

Companies start to ride into Coventry

Local businesses fight back after the early 1980s company crashes

Memories of the recession have made diversification the name of the game in Coventry and there are signs of it everywhere as the city energetically re-creates its prosperity. Business parks are thriving, new office developments are under way and dozens of companies are moving to the city.

Coventry's recent past explains why it is now aiming for a healthy mix of established manufacturing and "new-age" hi-tech industries.

An estimated 53,000 jobs were lost in manufacturing during two black years at the start of the 1980s when companies crashed and jobs were savagely cut.

However, 40 per cent of Coventry's working population remains in engineering, and the city is still powerfully linked with the car industry through Jaguar, Peugeot-Talbot, Rover and Carbodies, which together employ thousands. Other famous company names have helped Coventry to retain its manufacturing base, including Massey Ferguson, making tractors, Alvis, building armoured cars, Rolls-Royce, producing aero engines, Dunlop, the hydraulics company, and Lucas, specializing in electrical systems.

There are constant reminders of the relentless need for the creation of new jobs. GPT, the telecommunications company, announced it was to shed 700 jobs in Coventry.

However, unemployment in Coventry has fallen from its recession peak of 20 per cent to 8 per cent. Today, the Labour-controlled city council's economic development and planning unit capitalizes on the city's reputation for a skilled and adaptable workforce as it beckons companies to a new location at the centre of the motorway network.

The Westwood Business Park, to the west of the city, has become a modern success story for Coventry since it was created in 1987 to offer high-

Housing are to set up national centres there.

Warwick University's science park, a longer-term success story, is next to Westwood. The science park was set up by the university, the city council and Warwickshire County Council in 1984 as a prime location for hi-tech, computer-based companies. It was intended to facilitate the exchange of knowledge and research between academics and the new industrialists there. Computer-aided design, robotics and information technology have become common features of the science park, which is now home to more than 50 companies.

The National Grid Com-

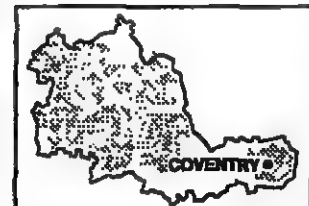
pany is also to move its corporate headquarters, employing about 600 people, to a site near the science park and Westwood, and 200 staff of the Department of Transport's motorway unit are moving from London to Friars House, Coventry's first big speculative office development for 15 years.

The city council is now working with P & O to create a £20 million office village, to be called Middlemarch, next to Coventry airport. The environment-friendly development is intended to capitalize on the desire of companies to move to the Coventry area and promises to create up to 5,000 jobs.

Coventry's vital motor industry connections have also attracted Societa Italiana Vetro, an Italian glass manufacturer, and Reinshagen, a West German car wiring company, which will create hundreds of new jobs at a £6 million plant.

Myles Mackie, the city's investment policy officer, says diversification of the industrial and commercial base and a flexible labour market are essential to Coventry's future prosperity. "The slump was such a shock," he says. "It shook the city to its foundations. When the slump reached its bottom, the city asked whether it had a future at all. Now we are looking to the 1990s in an very optimistic light. In 1980 we probably had only about 30 hi-tech companies in Coventry. Now we have more than 300. Everything is on the up."

Mr Mackie says the availability of labour, the relative cheapness of industrial and office sites and its location 100 miles from London and at the hub of the motorway network make Coventry particularly attractive to relocating companies and institutions. He says: "We are a small city and we have discovered that people do not want to move from congested London to another large, congested city."



A town escapes the shadow of its dominant neighbour

A 100-acre site alongside the M42 has been earmarked for a new business park that Solihull Borough Council believes will be Britain's finest. The council is certain the Blythe Valley park will attract modern computer-based companies.

However, the hi-tech business-park proposal, to be carried out with the developer Speyhawk on interim green belt land, will be the subject of a public inquiry later this year. If given the go-ahead, the landscaped, low-density development, to incorporate a further 100 acres as a country park for local people, would be next to junction 4 of the M42, south of Birmingham.

The motorway, linking with the M6 to the north and the M5 to the west, is only a few miles from the new extension of the M40, which will eventually link Birmingham with London. This puts the pro-

posed park at the heart of the motorway network that links the West Midlands with the rest of Britain. The council is convinced this is a trump card in attracting investment at a time when the West Midlands is challenging other booming areas, such as the M4 corridor, in the expanding field of hi-tech business parks.

The proposal has been put forward as Solihull makes a great effort to emerge from the shadow of its large neighbour, Birmingham, and establish its own identity as a location for offices and other modern business developments.

The leaders of the Tory-controlled borough believe Solihull has too often been considered merely an affluent, middle-class suburb of Birmingham. The image ignores the fact that Solihull is an industrial base in its own right. Land-Rover, which employs 6,000 people, and Lucas,

the motor-components manufacturer, are both based there.

Solihull forms a wedge between Birmingham and Coventry. The town's northern area consists largely of municipal estates to house Birmingham's overspill, and the east of the borough is mainly rural. Solihull town, with its tree-lined roads and pleasant appearance, has helped create its reputation as Birmingham's stockbroker belt, almost suggesting that it has no need to create new prosperity for its population or worry about job prospects.

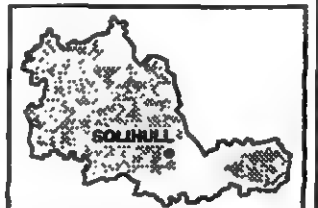
Bob Meacham, the council leader, points out that Birmingham International Airport, one of the fastest-growing in Britain, and the National Exhibition Centre (NEC), a West Midlands success story, are also both on Solihull land. The council is now keen to provide

land and space for small businesses and office developments. New companies that have come to the area recently include Powergen and National Homeloans.

Mr Meacham says: "We see ourselves as very much part of the West Midlands and I cheer as loudly as anybody when a new company decides to locate in the region. At the same time, we have done things to make sure people are aware that Solihull is a good place in which to create wealth."

Ideally, the Blythe Valley Business Park would become a location for computer-based companies doing research and development, he says.

John Scamption, Solihull's chief executive, says the council wants to establish the borough as a base for distinctive, high-quality industry and commerce. A property review by



Knight Welch Bryce, a property consultant, suggested Solihull could become the region's premier office location, with hundreds of thousands of sq ft of speculative developments under construction or planned.

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MOTORING

By Kevin Eason
Motoring Correspondent

On the high road to a holiday nightmare

It is not just the problem of diagnosing the fault in the broken-down car that faces the RAC's valiant rescue men abroad. The greater problem is often finding the stranded motorist.

According to the Royal Automobile Club, more than two million Britons will take their cars abroad this year - a record number - and many of them will not have a clue where they are. Battered motorists ring in to emergency centres with pleas for help, but are unable to answer the vital question: "Where are you?" Unfamiliarity with foreign place names and differently labelled roads means that when the family car comes to a spluttering stop, drivers are often totally lost.

Rescue services facing a deluge of calls through what is likely to be the busiest summer on record say this is the last answer they want to hear.

The rush starts this weekend as half-term holidays encourage families to seek the sun. Driving in Britain will be bad enough with traffic jams worse than Easter's record 110-mile M1 tailback threatened.

Long airport queues and the rising cost of package tours have persuaded many people to turn to motoring holidays.

The summer exodus to the Continent is about to begin. Kevin Eason and Andrew Vidion look at the pitfalls and perils facing our armies of unprepared motorists

Thousands of drivers are discovering to their cost, however, that motoring queries are just as frustrating, and that finding their own way around the Continent can be an alarming experience.

Too many holidaymakers fail to take precautions against medical problems or vehicle breakdowns - these could often be avoided through simple home maintenance - while too few know the language of the country they are touring.

They discover their folly as soon as the car stops. The RAC says many calls are simply to revive cars which have overheated. A simple oil and water check before setting off - an elementary

precaution - would have avoided the problem.

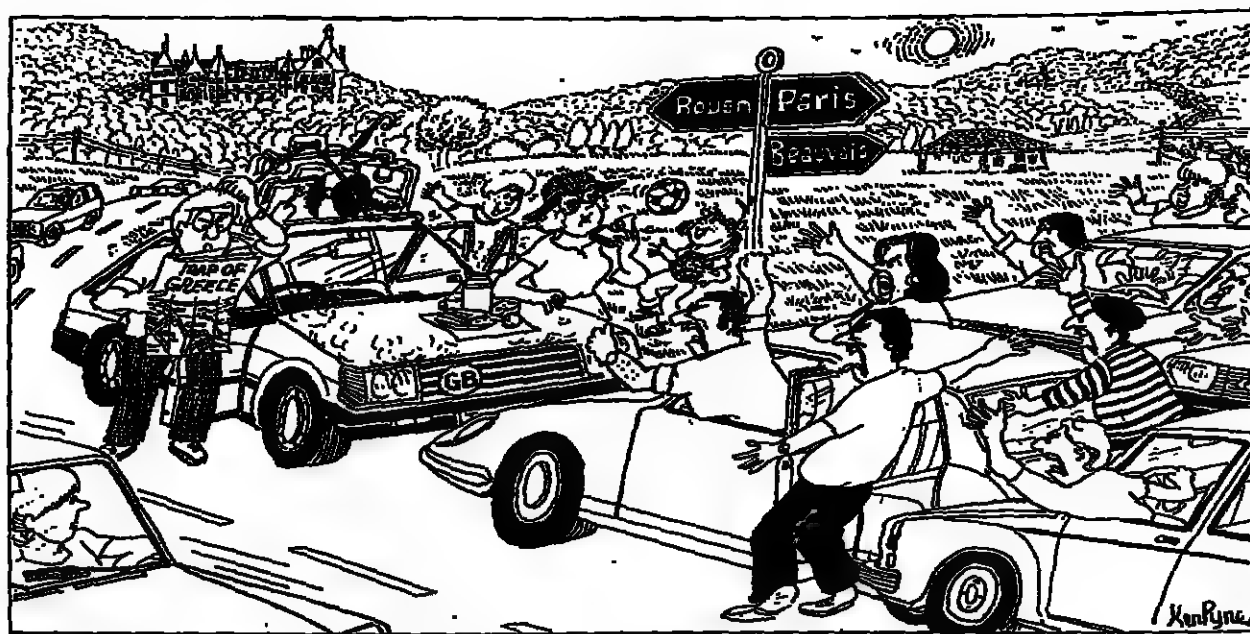
Many drivers have forgotten to note their direction and road number and they cannot ask directions of locals because they cannot string together a sensible sentence in a foreign language.

The RAC says: "It seems daft to say that motorists do not know where they are, but it is too often true. They ring in pleading for help and we spend lots of time trying to find them."

The unexpected will always happen, but motorists planning a trip abroad should be as prepared as the average motoring boy scout. Take advice from the experts, such as the RAC or Automobile Association, who can plan routes, offer insurance against breakdown and warn of pitfalls in each nation. The AA, for example, plans 25,000 routes a year. The London tourist offices of whichever country you are heading for can also provide additional information.

Basic rules are that a British driving licence is acceptable in most countries, although an international licence can be provided by the AA, and translations are demanded in Spain and Italy. Get a Green Card from your insurance company to avoid any legal tangles.

The best way of easing the headache is



to take out breakdown insurance before you go. National Breakdown, the AA, Mondial Assistance and the RAC, among others, all offer cover from about £40 for a two-week visit.

Many countries have a national organization which will give roadside help, but there is only a limited road patrol service in Norway and no nationwide service in France. You will have to pay for any assistance.

Serious accidents should be reported to the police immediately - this is compulsory if anyone is injured. However, the consequences of a crash in Spain take on new dimensions with the possibility of the car being impounded

and those involved detained pending bail. If you plan to drive in Spain, take out a bail bond through your insurance company. A warning triangle is necessary in most European countries.

Watch speed restrictions, which vary enormously and can lead to on-the-spot fines. Imagine the horror of one motorist enjoying the delights of a straight autoroute through northern France recently, who was stopped for speeding and issued with an immediate fine of 900 francs (about £94).

If you are towing, the limits are lower, and in Norway, some motorways have a 50mph restriction. In Portugal, visitors who have held a driving licence for less

than a year cannot travel faster than 50mph and have to display a circular 90 sign on the car.

For the adventurous few, eastern Europe has become an exotic holiday destination. But it can become a nightmare unless the correct preparations are carried out. Very little is certain once you cross into the eastern bloc with unleaded petrol, for instance, in short supply and breakdown facilities scarce.

Wherever you go, do not take for granted that integration of the UK in the European Community means driving is not so different on the Continent - nor that police will look kindly on ignorant foreigners.

Drive and survive in Europe

A QUICK touring guide to Europe's most attractive motoring destinations. (Speed limits are as shown unless otherwise indicated at roadside.)

BELGIUM

Speed limits: in towns 60kph (37mph), A-roads 90kph (56mph), motorways 120kph (74mph). Toll free. Emergencies: report accidents involving injury to police. Fire and ambulance 100, police 101. Belgian tourist service 071-499-5379.

WEST GERMANY

Speed limits: 50kph (31mph) in town, A-roads 100kph (62mph); motorways have a 130kph (81mph) recommended speed limit, but are likely to have a lower limit regulation too, which must

be observed. Toll free. Spillages likely, however, for "kitty" offences, such as running out of petrol. Emergencies: call police in injury accidents and give aid to other motorists where necessary. Failure to do so could mean prosecution. Police and ambulance 110 and fire 112. German tourist service 071-495-3990.

FRANCE

Speed limits: in town 60kph (37mph), A-roads outside town 90kph (56mph) and motorways 130kph (80mph). Be careful. On-the-spot speeding payments are often required. Tolls: extensive throughout autoroutes and can be expensive if travelling to the south. Keep plenty of cash handy. Emergencies: first-aid kit will be expected. Place a warning triangle to rear of vehicle. Emergency

numbers - fire 18 and police 17. Further information from French tourist office on 071-491-7622.

SPAIN

Speed limits: 60kph (37mph) in town and 120kph (74mph) on motorways. Tolls: extensive. Emergencies: Main roads have an SOS telephone network, but procedures vary throughout the country as do emergency numbers. Spanish tourist service on 071-499-0901.

THE NETHERLANDS

Speed limits: 50kph (31mph) in town, 120kph (74mph) on motor-

ways. Emergencies: same procedure as Britain, but numbers of local emergency services may vary considerably. Look in the front of telephone directory for help. Driving on side lights only is prohibited and dipped headlights must be used at all times in built-up areas. Netherlands tourist service on 071-630-0451.

SWITZERLAND

Speed limits: 50kph (31mph) in town, motorways 120kph (74mph). Tolls: expect a motorway tax of about 30 Swiss francs, authorized by a sticker which can be bought at the border. Emergencies: sensible reporting of injuries and keep traffic flowing where possible. Police and ambulance call 118. Swiss tourist office 071-734-1921.

AUSTRIA

Speed limits: 50kph (31mph) in town, motorways 130kph (80mph). Tolls: Only three motorways tolled at last count - the Brenner, the Tauern and Pyhrn Autobahnen. Emergencies: exchange details and where there are injuries, give assistance and call authorities - police 133 and ambulance 144. Austrian tourist service 071-492-0461.

IRELAND

Speed limits: 30mph in town. No motorways, but between 40 and 55mph usual limits on out-of-town A-roads unless otherwise stated. Tolls: No roads worth charging for. Emergencies: Usual exchange of names and addresses and emergencies on 999. Irish tourist office 071-493-3201.

EASTERN EUROPE

Subject to many variables. Make sure you contact a reputable motoring organization, such as the AA or RAC, for full details before setting out. Make sure of adequate supplies of fuel if you are taking unleaded only, plus medical help and breakdown retrieval.

ROADWISE

Catalytic converters may clean up the atmosphere, but they often cause a "bad egg" smell in the car. Rover has won the Casella/Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents award for its technology which removes the odour caused by hydrogen sulphide build-up in the converter. This means motorists do not have to suffer for their efforts to "go green".

BMW has moved into Dresden, setting up its first sales and service centre on the other side of the battered Iron Curtain. The company expects the deal later this month to be the first of many giving it representation through East Germany by 1994.

Readers may sometimes think we do not know our right from our left in this column... and last week they were right and we were wrong. Our item on the Institute of Advanced Motorists should have said that the Japanese drive on the left as we do, and not on the right. Something went seriously wrong in the translation. Apologies to Ted Clements, the IAM's chief examiner, who is certain which way round it should be.

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CAR BUYERS GUIDE

Continued on
next page

JAGUAR & DAIMLER

MERCEDES-BENZ

SPECTRUM

MERCEDES COACHMAN

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300SL

MERCEDES BENZ

190E Auto

280 SL

500SL

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You are right to be concerned:

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the UK list price of a new car, by buying the

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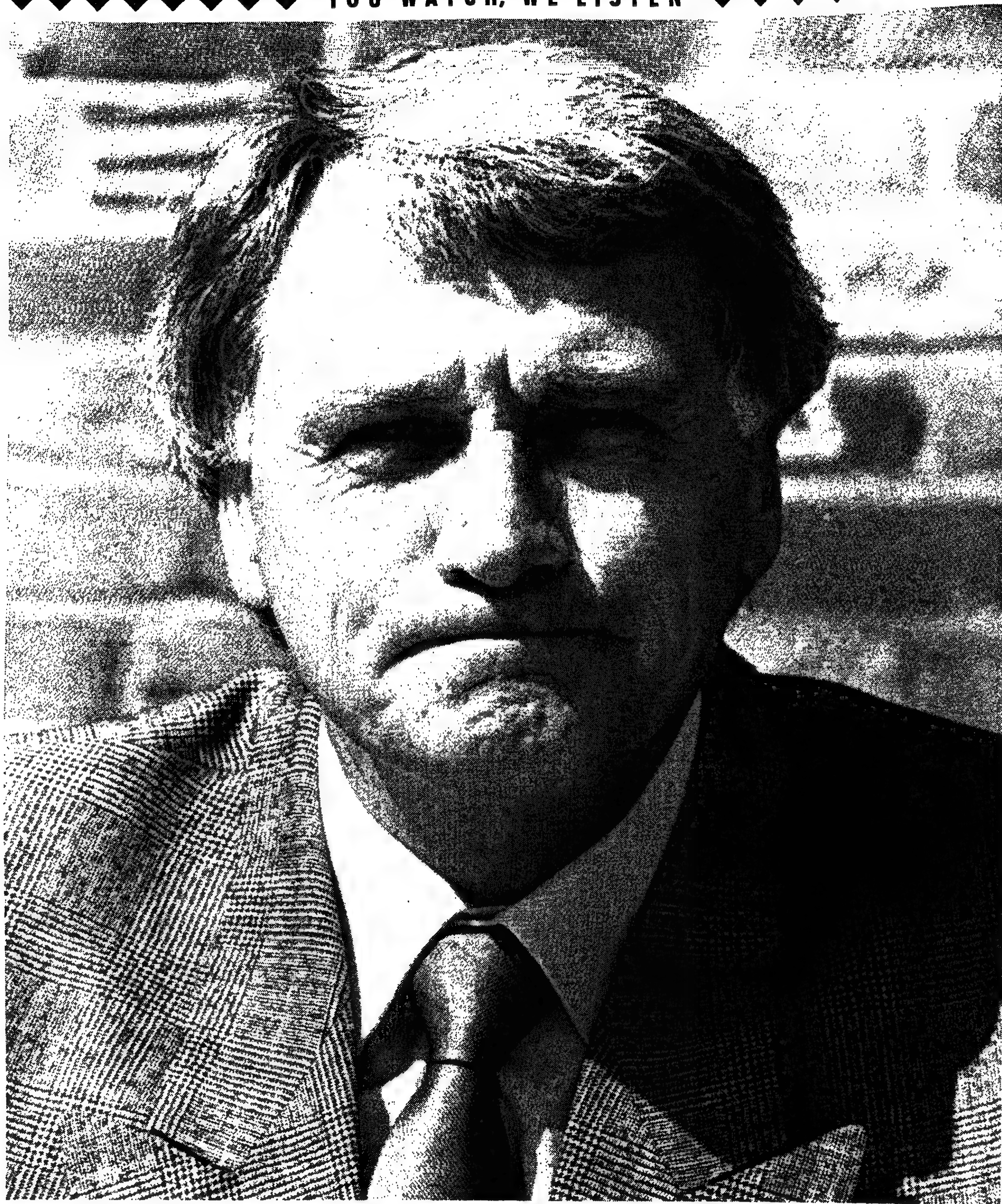
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YOU WATCH, WE LISTEN



If you've had enough of International football,
there's also tennis, golf and cricket
on BSB's Sports Channel this summer.



5 CHANNEL TV

هكذا من الأصل

Bedford to gamble for Meade

Get-together

Academic honors
an inspirational

Heavyweights

Barry Pickthall looks at changes in the design of yachts for future Whitbread Round the World Races

New breed to chase the clipper ships

THE Whitbread Round the World Race has been an extraordinary success. Overseas coverage of the early stages of the race, the two New Zealand ketches, *Strenuous* and *Fisher & Paykel*, dominating the event, and the shortcomings of the handicap system which left the small yachts with no chance to challenge the maxis, the 33,000-mile adventure has drawn a huge armchair following.

The television coverage from each leg and daily first-hand reports in newspapers have given yachting a huge lift, at a time when the draw-out court battle over the America's Cup had put the sport in the doldrums.

As a result, skippers, crews and sponsors have begun making plans for the next race in three years' time, even before the last boats are home from this one.

A team of designers will meet in Sussex next month to establish rules for a new breed of boats at 60ft and 80ft levels as bids flood in from ports around the world eager to host one of the five stop-overs.

Their brief from skippers and sponsors is to produce parameters for lighter boats that sail faster and more safely with fewer crew. In the words of David Pritchard-Barrett, the retiring chairman of

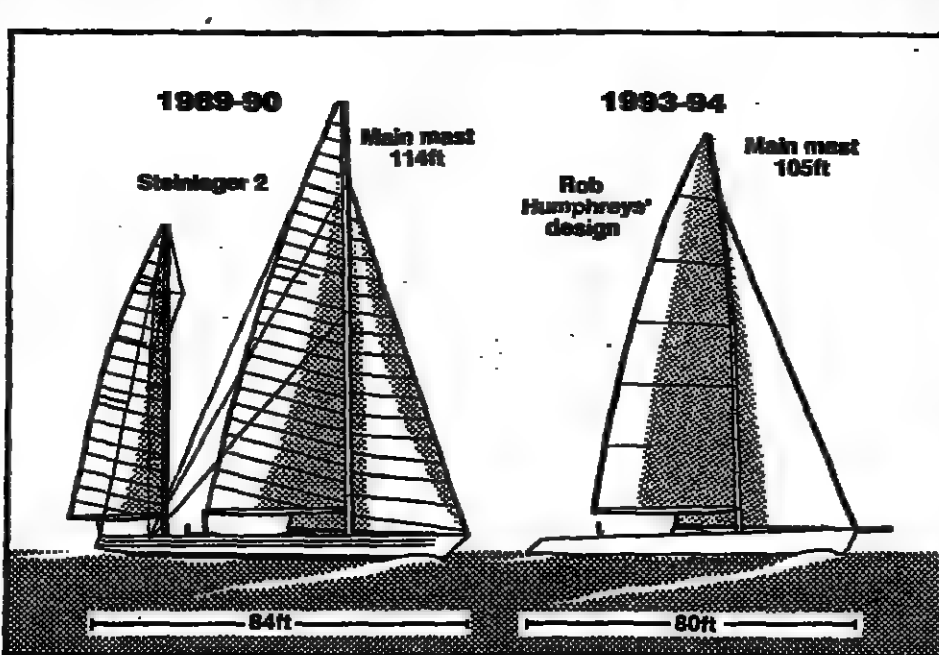
Whitbread's race executive, "We want boats that can challenge the clipper ship records."

It has not been lost on Whitbread competitors that, while they struggled to better an average of 10 knots with 14 to 17 crew in 80ft yachts, carrying eight tons of speed-sapping lead, placed there to satisfy a measurement rule, Titouan Lamazou, the French sailor, circled the globe in 109 days at an average of 9.48 knots alone, aboard a boat that was 20ft shorter than the Whitbread maxi.

Indeed, there were many days in the extreme conditions faced in the Southern Ocean when Ecuriel de Aquitaine was quicker than her sluggish Whitbread rivals.

As most skippers admit, unless something is quickly done to overhaul the design criteria for multi-crewed ocean-racing yachts, the 60ft open-design boats, built to a simple rule drawn up for the 1973 BOC Challenge, single-handed round-the-world race, which starts from Newport, Rhode Island, in September, will outperform the Whitbread yachts in four years' time.

BOC organizers are watching closely what the Whitbread designers will decide, particularly for the 60ft division, which has already won approval for the 1993



race. The requirements given them by the skippers include water ballast tanks, to aid stability and reduce the number of crew required, and ultra-light displacement, to maximize speed.

Their own rules are similar, but will there be sufficient common ground that will allow Whitbread boats to compete in the BOC race and vice-versa?

The criticism laid at the door of BOC is that its simple rule has no structural requirements to ensure the yachts do not break up, and that without a restriction on maximum beam, there are no guarantees that the yachts will right themselves automatically in the event of a knock-down.

This was proved during the recent Globe Challenge, when Philippe Poupon's 60ft French challenger, *Fléury Michon*, capsized in the Indian Ocean

and remained pinned down on its beam-ends for the best part of 24 hours.

The Whitbread design team intends to devise a stronger stability rule for both the 60ft and 80ft classes and to set minimum construction standards. Mark Shrader, the American chairman of the BOC Challenge, accepts these criticisms. "Yes, the *Fléury Michon* episode has highlighted a stability problem

which we have to address," he says.

"The concepts for the BOC and Whitbread 60ft boats are so close, we have a chance here to work together to develop an international rule that encompasses everyone's requirements."

Rob Humphreys, the designer of *Lawrie Smith's* Whitbread maxi, *Rothmans*, is a member of the Whitbread design committee. He said yesterday: "It is easy to fragment the sport with different rules. What we must aim to do is consolidate on a universal rule. I would like to see the parameters laid down for exciting lightweight yachts at 40ft, 50ft, 60ft and 80ft lengths that can be integrated over a period to replace the existing international off-shore rule."

Philippe Briand, the French designer of Patrick Tabarly's Division 3 Whitbread leader, *L'Esprit de Liberté*, and Poupon's ill-fated *Fléury Michon*, agrees.

Writing in the latest issue of *Seashore*, the specialist ocean-racing magazine, he has called for the homogenization of the world's ocean racing fleet so that future Whitbread boats can race in other events to justify their cost. The kind of boat he wants is similar to the present open BOC 60-footer, along with an 80ft version. He suggests that all yachts should

undergo a practical knock-down test.

Guy Ribadeau-Dumas, the designer of Alain Gabbay's ultra-light Whitbread maxi, *Charles Jourdan*, who has also drawn the lines of two previous BOC race-winners, is not convinced. He suggests the BOC rule results in ugly boats with plum bows and ridiculously low freeboards.

He is concerned that, if the rule remains unchecked, it will result in extreme boats that are difficult to sail, expensive and fragile — the exact opposite to what the Whitbread skippers have called for.

Humphreys suggests that the new yachts would displace 25 per cent less than *Strenuous's* 70,000lb weight, require a crew of nine instead of 15, and result in a 20 per cent saving in the £3 million campaign costs. Most important, these new boats will be fast, capable of setting average speeds in excess of 15 knots to challenge the clipper records set a century ago.

The Whitbread race has done much to publicize the sport. Now this design initiative could have an even greater impact on the racing world, leading to the adoption of a new international design rule that should be accepted throughout the world, not just for one race held every four years.

ATHLETICS

Bedford prepares to gamble home for Meadowbank

By STEVE ACTON

DAVID Bedford made the ultimate commitment to one of Britain's most famous events yesterday when he said he was prepared to mortgage his home to raise the £65,000 required to ensure that the International Athletics Club's grand prix meeting at the Meadowbank Stadium in Edinburgh will go ahead on July 6 even if it still lacks a sponsor.

Bedford, now 40, and who lives in Beresford, Hertfordshire, has unsuccessfully sought a sponsor since Miller Lite ended their four-year association last year even though the meeting is guaranteed two hours of coverage on Independent Television and an hour in the United States on a cable channel.

Bedford, the former 10,000 metres world record-holder, said that this year's meeting was guaranteed but unless sponsorship of around £130,000 a year could be found it would thereafter lose

its status as part of the Mobil Grand Prix series, which will be reduced from 17 to 15 meetings next season.

A figure of £180,000 is guaranteed from television and £25,000 from Edinburgh District Council. Gate receipts and revenue from perimeter advertising and the like will be the other income for a meeting which last year cost almost £500,000.

Bedford said: "We have a secured income so far of £350,000 but we still need the funds provided by a title sponsor. Sixty-five thousand pounds will enable us to fulfil the requirements of the Grand Prix and satisfy television, who are extremely supportive."

Bedford, who ran in the first IAC meeting in 1968, said: "I believe the meeting is essential to the future of British athletics and if the money cannot be found I will personally put in the £65,000 needed. If need be, I will mortgage my home

or take out a loan against it."

The IAC, whose only other revenue is some £2,500 a year from subscriptions, spends the surplus from the meeting in providing athletes with medical support and funds for warm weather training.

Bedford said he had "swallowed his pride" in talking to the Amateur Athletic Association treasurer, John Lister, to try and devise a rescue package for the games but said the AAA's demands, which included Bedford only being allowed to promote events in the United Kingdom with their permission, were "unacceptable".

This year's meeting is already guaranteed one absorbing encounter when the Olympic 1,500 metres silver medal winner, Peter Elliott, will race the Somali world champion, Abdi Bile, over 1,000 metres.

Bedford is not the only one to be feeling the financial pinch. For although the AAA and the British Amateur Athletic Board will pay £450,000 in appearance money this season, £50,000 more than last year, the money will this time also cover foreign athletes and involves four meetings compared to five last year.

Three years ago such leading athletes as Steve Cram were earning £15,000 a meeting but from now on the top fee will be \$10,000 per event down from nine categories to \$150.

Winning his water wings



IN his element: water skiing was the best alternative Mick Brownson could find to keep his nine-year-old son, Shawn, off the streets of his home town of Farnborough, Kent (a Special Correspondent writes). He could not have foreseen that within a decade his son (above) would be a British overall and triathlon champion and he competing in the world's top events.

"It was good fun to begin with but when I started to win all of the club events I got a lot more serious about the sport," Shawn Brownson relates. "I had a couple of setbacks in the beginning. My father took me down to Thorpe Park so Paul Sealton, the one-time European champion, could see if I showed promise. "We didn't hear anything from him and I was so disheartened that I nearly gave up. Then a friend suggested going to Ruislip Lido. Paul Addington, the coach, took an interest and introduced me to John Battleday for some training. From then on I really started making

Having collected second in the slalom event and third in the jump competition at the Carlsberg European Masters' last year, Brownson is determined to do even better at the event this weekend in Lincoln.

He spent the winter in Florida training and has just returned from the States with an American title. Brownson stands a better-than-average chance of winning the slalom title in the absence of the slalom champion, John Battleday, who is unfit to compete owing to an eye injury.

David Howes, the league's public affairs executive, said: "Rugby league has taken off so spectacularly in Britain that it is particularly with the expansion of nationwide television coverage, that we feel this is the right time to play one of our major fixtures in South Wales as a promotion exercise. It will give Welsh followers of the game an opportunity to see the two best league teams."

WELSH TRIO TO RETURN TO THE PRINCIPALITY

VELTCH Field, the home ground of Swansea City FC, will stage next season's Charity Shield, sponsored by CIS Insurance, at 2.15pm on August 19 (Keith Macklin writes).

The match, between the Premiership holders, *Widnes*, and the Silk Cut Challenge Cup winners, *Wigan*, will see Jonathan Davies, John Devereux and Paul Murray return to South Wales, wearing the colours of *Widnes*.

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SWIMMING

Palmer strikes gold

PAUL Palmer, of Lincoln, took England's first gold medal at the World Schools Games in Bruges yesterday, with victory in the 400 metres freestyle in 4min 04.32sec (Craig Lord writes).

Adam Ruckwood added to the medal tally with a silver in the 100 metres backstroke, and bronze in the 200 metres backstroke after qualifying fastest for the final.

BASEBALL

Academic honours for an inspirational figure

By ROBERT KIRLEY

JOE DiMaggio, heir to Babe Ruth, flourished with the New York Yankees before and after the Second World War. Last week he received an honorary doctorate from Columbia University, the Big Apple's seat of Ivy League learning. The citation described DiMaggio as "the sports figure whose achievement inspires everyone's admiration and respect and excites us all to excel."

How true. It must be said, however, that even in his day, his stature was not universally appreciated. DiMaggio was briefly married to Marilyn Monroe in the mid-1950s. When she returned from a celebrity-studded Christmas tour of military camps, Mrs DiMaggio gushed: "Everywhere we went, there were 50,000 people cheering and hollering for me. You have no idea what it was like."

Joan's Joe replied softly: "Yes, I do."

Rick Dempsey heard the applause this week when he hit two lead-off home runs to help the Los Angeles Dodgers to a 4-2 victory over the Philadelphia

Phillies. Dempsey, whose big-league career began shortly after Nixon moved into the White House, has batted only occasionally this season.

The next night, Rod Booker hit a bases-loaded triple to win the game in the eleventh inning as the Phillies beat the Dodgers 15-12. The game lasted 4hr 50min and featured 42 players (seven pitchers for each team) and 39 base hits. Garry Templeton hit a grand slam home run to lead the San Diego Padres 6-3 past the New York Mets. Frank Viola, the losing pitcher, had won seven previous decisions.

Bobby Witt, of the Texas Rangers, must have thought he was pitching batting practice for the Baltimore Orioles when they hit a record-equalling eight consecutive singles and built a seven-run first-inning advantage into a 13-1 victory.

Dave Stewart, of Oakland, became the American League's first seven-game winner in a 9-1 victory over Milwaukee, and Cecil Fielder, of Detroit, increased his home run total to 17, the best in the major leagues.

ROWING

Heavyweights abroad

BRITAIN will be one of 25 nations competing in the three-day Essen Regatta starting on the Valdeysee today (Mike Rosewell writes).

The British men's heavyweight squad will be represented by 10 crews, including many of the successful 1989 world championships contingent. With Steven Redgrave and Simon Berrisford not competing, the coxless pair slot is being filled by the former international, Jonathan Singfield and Jonathan Hulls. Guy Pooley, of Cambridge, will be the single sculler.

EQUESTRIANISM

King James is next in line

By JENNY MACARTHUR

MARY Thomson, a member of the long list for the forthcoming world championships in Stockholm, will be attempting a third win in the Volvo FEI International Windsor Three-Day Event, which begins today in Windsor Great Park.

Despite the firm ground, Windsor has had little difficulty in attracting the leading names. On the long list of competitors are Virginia Leng, the world champion, who will be riding at Windsor for the first time, Rodney Powell and Karen Straker.

Thomson, who earned her place on the long list after finishing third on King Boris at Badminton, won Windsor in 1987 and again last year on King Max. This weekend she will ride the eight-year-old King James and the nine-year-old The Leg-

islator — both of which look set to give her a better ride than she had on King Samuel earlier this week in the Puncnettstown Three-Day Event in Ireland, where she had to retire on the cross-country section.

King James was off for most of last year after sustaining a minor leg injury during the Breda event in The Netherlands. The rest has evidently done him no harm for he has been placed at all his one-day horse trials in his build-up to Windsor. The Legislator is a more experienced horse and Miss Thomson is hoping to improve on his performance last year at Windsor, when he was second after the cross-country but dropped to twelfth place after knocking down three fences in the show jumping.

The British riders face a

strong New Zealand entry headed by Andrew Nicholson, the winner at Puncnettstown, who is riding his younger horse, *Courtown and Commiser*.

Because of the firm ground the speed on the steeplechase phase has been reduced. But the organizers are confident that the cross-country will ride well for there is a good covering of grass and the take-off and landing sides of the fences have been harrowed.

The Princess Royal, the president of the trials, said before embarking on an official visit to the Soviet Union that Windsor had responded well to similar conditions in the past.

More than 200 riders are competing in the event, which also includes the British Junior championship. It begins today with the dressage.

TRIATHLON

Place in Florida beckons winners

By a SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

MORE than 600 entries have been received for the first important event of the season, the All Abroad Triathlon, which will be held at Cotswold Water Park, Swindon, on Sunday.

Competition should be intense, with the first two in each age group gaining automatic selection for the world championships, which take place in Florida in September.

The leading women, including most of the British squad, set off first at 7am. The battle for honours and prizes — which include a trip to the Filat Triathlon in Israel later this year

hoping to make an impression as the Olympic swimmer, Robin Brew, and Julian Jenkinson. Jack Maitland, of Scotland, who is better known for fell running and other endurance events, is also in the field.

The event is over the international distance of a 1.5km swim, 40km bike ride and 10km run.

The elite men go off in the last of four waves, at 10.30am, and a close contest looks likely between Jonathan Ashby and Richard Hobson, who was beaten by a margin of just one second at Bath. Two others

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BADMINTON

Women carry England's medal hopes

From RICHARD EATON

IT IS important for the game's health in England that the suggestions of a revival in last month's European championships in Moscow be continued in the Thomas and Uber Cup world team finals which start here today.

In Moscow, Steve Baddeley unexpectedly won the men's singles and Fiona Smith came within a point of the women's title, although Smith may have the greater hope of tangible reward this time, for England's women have been quietly fanning their chances of upsetting the seedings, which say they will not qualify from their group for the semi-final stages.

"If we play really well we have a chance," Nora Perry, the former world doubles champion, said. She has been called in to coach the squad in a Uber Cup final for the first time.

Her view has been made all the more realistic by the news that the fourth-seeded Danes are without both the European champion, Pernille Hardborg, who is injured, and her predecessor, Kirsten Larsen, who has retired, as well as three of their lesser lights. So if England produce their best form they should certainly be able to qualify.

The men have the same three countries, Indonesia, Denmark and Japan, in their group but probably only have realistic chances against Japan.

However, the acting manager, Ciro Ciniglio, is determined that the pride which was rediscovered in Moscow be shown again here, as a stepping stone in the rebuilding process.

AMERICAN FOOTBALL

Spartans fight back to preserve unbeaten run

By RICHARD WETHERELL

THE National Division Manager Association (NDMA) programme reaches its halfway stage this weekend, with only Manchester Spartans boasting a 4-0 record. They have a week off from the league, taking on Amsterdam Crusaders in a European qualifying match tomorrow instead.

Spartans continued their unbeaten run with a 42-28 victory over London Olympians, having struggled initially and trailed 12-0. After the lead had changed hands several times during the second half, Spartans recovered to edge ahead 29-28, but were still in danger of losing their 100 per cent record when they were rescued by Brown, who added two touchdowns to the 96-yard one he had scored earlier.

The Crusaders, who had previously sent two scouts from Amsterdam to watch the Spartans in action, will be hoping to continue the run of success they have enjoyed against British sides in the competition. Terry Smith, the Spartans coach, may have to leave himself out

because European rules allow only two American players.

In the NDMA, Glasgow Lions lost for the first time, to the Birmingham Bulls, 17-10. The Bulls ran for 316 yards, Williams and King both rushing for more than 100 yards and a touchdown, but passed for only 10 yards. The Lions meet Northampton Storms on Sunday, and will hope to break their unbeaten record. Storms beat London Ravens 41-21 last week, with Atlas missing a notable double by one yard. He caught for 109 yards, but could only manage 59 rushing.

Leeds Crusaders, fresh from a 33-2 victory over Fylde Falcons in which Thomas ran for 262 yards and two touchdowns, face their former coach, Chuck Brogdon, now of the Bulls. Brogdon was sacked at the end of last season, despite taking the Cougars to the semi-finals of the Budweiser championship. His replacement, Dan Moore, heads a side that was one of only two British teams to beat the Bulls in the regular season last year.

MOTOR RACING

Senna strolls with ease to masterful early lead

By JOHN BLINDEN, MONACO

THERE were moments of extreme satisfaction yesterday afternoon, first for Jean Alesi, the young maestro of the Tyrrell team, and then for the indomitable Derek Warwick, the leader of the Camel-Lotus team, as each in turn found himself at the top of the list of qualifiers for the Monaco Grand Prix on Sunday.

But even as they enjoyed their temporary elevation to the front of the starting grid, Ayrton Senna was strolling towards his Marlboro McLaren-Honda. Taking his time, he climbed aboard, had his safety harness fastened and slipped on his helmet, fired up his engine and headed for the pit exit.

Alesi had lapped in 1min 24.16sec, to which Warwick had responded with 1:24.07. Two minutes later Senna began his first flying lap. It lasted just 1:21.877. Any thoughts that his mastery of the technique of race qualification was being seriously challenged were effectively laid to rest.

During the remainder of the hour-long session, no other driver broke 1:23, but just to confirm that his first effort was no fluke, Senna went out again with 10 minutes to go and shaved almost a tenth of a second off his earlier time, which he reduced to 1:21.797, despite twice locking up wheels on successive corners. He thought that otherwise a "214" lap had been on the cards.

It was a breath-taking performance on this circuit. "If you are going for a fast time, you are bound to be shaving the barriers," Senna said. "You have to apply your judgement and capitalise on it."

Alesi improved to 1:23.372 in his Tyrrell-Ford, leading the Ferrari challenge to the dominant Goodyear teams, but Berger's 1:23.001 has ensured that the two red and white McLarens have taken their customary positions at the front of the provisional grid, with Prost leading the Ferrari attack from fourth place.

Mansell, who chose to use just one set of qualifying tyres

and one of soft race rubber on his Formula 1, was thwarted by having to pass three cars in the tunnel and is only tenth at present, although he was satisfied with the race set-up of his car. "If I can climb a few places up the grid on Saturday we could be in good shape," he suggested.

Earlier, however, he had been far from content when, during the preliminary practice, trouble with the transmission on his spare car had put him into the wrong gear at the Casino Square and flung him into the barriers.

The Canon-Williams team still has some work to do to lessen its cars' understeer and to find some more grip, but Boutsen, in fifth position, and Patrese, the winner at Imola, in eighth, are still capable of giving Renault their first success at Monaco on Sunday.

Martini suggested before qualifying that his chipped ankle was "about 70 per cent following his accident at Imola. Nevertheless, he put his Minardi-Ford in sixth place on the provisional grid, despite the handicap.

Warwick ran into traffic problems, then had an oil leak which lubricated his rear tyres, so he was unable to improve on his earlier time, which left him seventh in the list.

Warwick and Donnelly, however, are encouraged by the progress being made by the Lotus team. The find of knowledge about Monaco which their boss, Tony Rudd, has carried with him since his days with BRM, who were almost unbeatable here, is clearly paying a dividend this weekend, despite the changes in technology.

David Brabham tried hard to qualify in his Brabham-Judd, but two broken drive-shaft joints left him on the sidelines and he ran out of time. "There's always Saturday," he said, with a refreshing touch of optimism. Fortunately, like last year, 26 cars will be allowed to start on Sunday instead of the 20-car limit enforced for so many years, and it could make all the difference for Sir Jack's youngest son.

PRACTICE TIMES IN MONACO

FIRST PRACTICE: 1. A Senna (Br), 1:21.797; 2. J. Alesi (Tyr), 1:23.372; 3. G. Berger (Ferr), 1:23.001; 4. A. Prost (Ferr), 1:23.001; 5. D. Warwick (McL), 1:23.372; 6. P. Barrichello (McL), 1:23.372; 7. D. Warwick (McL), 1:23.372; 8. P. Barrichello (McL), 1:23.372; 9. P. Barrichello (McL), 1:23.372; 10. P. Barrichello (McL), 1:23.372.

TODAY'S FIXTURES

CRICKET
Texaco Trophy
One-day international
10.45, 55 overs

THE OVAL: England v New Zealand
British American
Championship
11.0, 110 overs minimum

CHESTERFIELD: Derbyshire v Yorkshire
SWANSEA: Glamorgan v Kent
SOUTHAMPTON: Hampshire v Essex

LORDES: Middlesex v Surrey
Trent Bridge: Nottinghamshire v Northamptonshire
TAUNTON: Somerset v Sussex

FOUR MATCHES
11.30 to 6.30
PENFARNS: Cambridge University v Gloucestershire
THE PARKS: Oxford University v Lancashire

EUROPEAN CRICKET CUP (Continued)
RAPID CRICKET: SECOND 20
CHAMPIONSHIP: Glamorgan v Kent; Northamptonshire v Somerset; Derbyshire v Lancashire; Surrey v Essex; Gloucestershire v Warwickshire; Worcestershire v Hampshire.

OTHER SPORT
CYCLING: Proletariat League (Circuit)
GOLF: English women's championship (Royal); WPGA European Tour Classic (Tyntegreath); Irish women's championship (The Island); Tyrrell Trophy (Royal Portlough); Volvo PGA Championship (Wentworth).

MODERN PENTATHLON: National 65-69 years' championship: Fencing (65-69); Swimming (65-69); Shooting (65-69); Equestrian (65-69); Fencing (65-69).

SENIOR: British League: Belle Vue v Bradford; Oxford v Dudley; Wigan v Hull; Wigan v Hull.

TRY THIS
Denis Tingay's suggestion for a sporting day out

NEWQUAY SURFING CLASSIC: In recognition of the increasing importance of this event within the European circuit, the European Professional Surfing Association (EPSA) has included the Festival Beach tournament as a grand prize tour fixture for the first time.

Carwyn Williams, European champion and three times winner of the Newquay Classic, is eminently capable of achieving a fourth victory, but with the Australian national amateur champion, John Mills, and his fellow countryman, Jeremy Byles, also entered, competition for first place will be fierce. Also competing is Russell Winter, aged 14, the youngest ever European

individual meeting (Heddon). Four team tournaments: Portsmouth v Long Eaton v Middleborough v Stockton.

ATHLETICS: Screenings 11.45am-1.15pm: Invitation tournament from Los Angeles; European 6-7pm: IAAF Grand Prix from San Francisco.

BASKETBALL: European 9.30pm: Greece v Spain; World 10pm: World Indoor Championships from Prague.

CRICKET: Essex 9.30pm: Essex One-day international; Hampshire v Essex.

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Competitive line-up for fourth running of The Times Championship final at Towcester today



Isabel Dady with Eastern Chant, a leading contender for today's final of The Times Championship at Towcester

Dady stands by her superstition

By ALK RAMSAY

WHATEVER happens today in today's final of The Times Championship at Towcester, one thing is certain: Isabel Dady is in no danger of losing her shirt.

Not only is she the owner and trainer of the probable favourite, Eastern Chant, but she never bets on her own horses. It is the only superstition that this very level-headed lady will admit to. "I think you've got to be down to earth about the whole thing," she said. "I do look at the form, but I'm not afraid of anybody in the race. I think if they are all there to win, then everybody is taking a chance so I never commit myself on the result."

She will not be drawn on the possible outcome. The most she will say is: "Eastern Chant is a game little horse, game to give it a go. If he stands up over the 18 fences then he stands a good chance."

At 15.3 hands high and eight years old, Eastern Chant is a small but spunky colt. "He's a real character," said Dady. "He's got a big heart. If they're going to do the job they've got to enjoy it and they've got to want to do it. He's full of beans all the time."

Dady and Eastern Chant go back a long way. Bred from one of her own broodmares, she tried him with some success over hurdles as a three-year-old, but as a six-year-old, he qualified for Towcester but did not run. Whatever the challenge Dady has set before him, he has done her proud.

"He's always been the same and I've always hung on to him," she said. "He has a fair turn of foot and he hunts very well. Some of the thoroughbreds and point-to-pointers are hopeless, but I think hunting keeps them sweet and teaches them a lot."

However, Eastern Chant's progress over the last couple of years has been hindered by injury and a spell of mixed form. Last season he was out of action after kicking himself and injuring a blood vessel while this season saw him have a fairly miserable start.

"He was just wrong," said Dady. "Maybe it was a touch of virus. I don't know, but he has got better. I ran him at Sandown and he won by 20 lengths so I took him to Towcester to see how he coped with bigger fences and he came second. If he's not fit now, he never will be."

Originally from Shropshire, 34-year-old Dady has spent her whole life around horses and has been training her own point-to-pointers for the last three years. But this is the first season she has had as many as four of her own horses in training at her own stables, a situation that was forced upon her.

"We look on a farm here in

Worcestershire a year ago," she said. "Coming to a new area there was no chance to get livery so I did it all myself. But that's the great satisfaction with point-to-point—you are doing it yourself."

All her horses have won this year and Dady did have another qualifier for the final in the six-year-old, Crossfire. "She's won twice this season," she said. "But she's done enough and I think it is a little hard to ask her to go round a hard course like Towcester. It's a stayer's course."

So with Eastern Chant and Crossfire already proving themselves and with stable companions Griffede and Sound and Rhythm as hopes for the future, things are looking good for Dady. "There is a lot of luck in this business and I've been lucky this year," she said. "I just hope that next season I can improve."

Razeen Derby favourite as Rock Hopper has setback

By ALK RAMSAY

RAZEEN is the new outright favourite for the Derby with Ladbrokes as the odds have moved from 1/2 to 1/3.

Other Derby news yesterday centred around Khalid Abdulla, who could have as many as four runners in the June 6 classic, and Cash Asmussen, who has been booked by Barry Hills to ride his Don Stakes winner, Blue Stag.

Rock Hopper, heavily-backed since winning the Calor Derby Trial at Lingfield earlier this month, was ante-post favourite for just 24 hours and is now 5-1 second favourite with Ladbrokes (from 10-1).

Razeen, the 10-1 market leader, is a 10-1 favourite with Ladbrokes. Speaking from Newmarket yesterday, Michael Stoute said: "Rock Hopper had a minor problem but we believe he will be back under saddle and out on the heath again tomorrow."

Abdulla, who came closest to winning the race with the 1986 runner-up Dancing Brave, is likely to be represented by Digression, Sangamoor, Quest For Fame, and possibly a pacesetter in Aramitic.

Guy Harwood said at Goodwood yesterday that Digression had shown no ill effects after his defeat in the 1989 Derby. "Digression came out of the race really well and it will put him just right for the Derby. A good gallop round Epsom will be entirely different from the muddling race here," said the Pulborough trainer.

"He'll handle Tottenham

Corner well and any going will do. Epsom is a very different race from Goodwood," he added.

Digression is now a 16-1 chance for Epsom with Ladbrokes as Abdulla's main hopes have switched to the Roger Charlton-trained pair, Sangamoor and Quest For Fame.

Grant Fritchard-Gordon, Abdulla's racing manager, reported that the two Beckenham challengers had "come out of their respective Derby trials in good form."

Defensive Play, well beaten by Rock Hopper in the Lingfield Derby Trial, having previously accounted for that colt in the Guardian Classic Trial is unlikely to make the final line-up.

"Defensive Play developed ringworm around his face and

neck soon after the Lingfield race and this may not be cleared up in time for Epsom," Fritchard-Gordon said. "Aromatic has been entered to ensure a strong pace, if required."

No decision has yet been made as to which of the Abdulla horses will ride but it is expected that Eddery will ride the champion jockey, D. F. Fought, to favour Quest For Fame.

Cornal also make Razeen clear favourite at 7-2 with Rock Hopper a 4-1 chance (from 3-1) and Linamix, heavily-backed yesterday, now 6-1 third favourite (from 10-1).

Hills have Razeen and Rock Hopper as 4-1 joint-favourites and then bet 5-1 Digression (with a run), 7-1 Zoman, Linamix (from 8-1), 8-1 Epsom, 10-1 Sangamoor (with a run), 10-1 Quest For Fame, 14-1 others.

However, two new additions to the jockeys' ranks next season

will be John Matthias and British-born South African, Basil Marcus, who will ride for David Hill and Lam Hong-Fie respectively.

The RHJRC has adjudged an inquiry into 7-1 alleged breaches of the rules by Gary Moore. Moore's London-based lawyers have lodged an application for leave to appeal to the Privy Council and the application will be heard on July 4. If this fails, the RHJRC will reconvene the inquiry as soon as possible.

RESULTS FROM YESTERDAY'S TWO MEETINGS

Goodwood

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Leadbetter steps in to give Lyle a new swing to his career

By MITCHELL PLATTIS
GOLF CORRESPONDENT

A NEW-look Sandy Lyle, re-modelled and reformed under the watchful eye of the golf teacher, David Leadbetter, will be seen today when the Scot tees off in the first round of the Volvo PGA Championship on the West Course at Wentworth.

Without a tournament victory since the Suntory World Match Play Championship in October 1988, Lyle has turned to the man responsible for reconstructing the swing of Nick Faldo, the Masters champion, for a similar freshening of his own ailing game.

Leadbetter, after working with Lyle during practice this week, said: "Sandy is a completely different character from Nick, but I honestly believe that, given time, he will start winning again."

"We had a good session on Tuesday, when I gave Sandy two or three fundamentals to work on. In essence, he needs to restore his confidence and he can only do that if he knows in which direction the ball is going."

"Sandy has been standing on the tee not knowing whether it is going to go right or left. My aim is to get him hitting the ball left to right all the time."

He needs one shape of shot, so that he at least knows what he is doing when the ball flies into no man's land.

Faldo, who has duelled with Lyle for 15 years to be the best golfer in Britain, believes that his rival has made the best possible decision to employ Leadbetter.

"I miss not having Sandy around as a competitive rival," Faldo said. "It's a fact that we have over the years responded to the challenge of each other. But at the moment Sandy is lost. He's got to go through the whole process of getting himself back into contention in a tournament and then to feel the pressure again."

"I can also say that it is not easy, because I did it with David. He makes you exaggerate movements to get them right. He'll hear people saying, 'He's off his rocker to be doing that', just as I did, but

Card of course

Hole	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	Total
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9	4	5	4	3	4	5	4	3	4	5	4	3	4	5	4	3	4	5	45
10	4	5	4	3	4	5	4	3	4	5	4	3	4	5	4	3	4	5	45
11	4	5	4	3	4	5	4	3	4	5	4	3	4	5	4	3	4	5	45
12	4	5	4	3	4	5	4	3	4	5	4	3	4	5	4	3	4	5	45
13	4	5	4	3	4	5	4	3	4	5	4	3	4	5	4	3	4	5	45
14	4	5	4	3	4	5	4	3	4	5	4	3	4	5	4	3	4	5	45
15	4	5	4	3	4	5	4	3	4	5	4	3	4	5	4	3	4	5	45
16	4	5	4	3	4	5	4	3	4	5	4	3	4	5	4	3	4	5	45
17	4	5	4	3	4	5	4	3	4	5	4	3	4	5	4	3	4	5	45
18	4	5	4	3	4	5	4	3	4	5	4	3	4	5	4	3	4	5	45
Total	81	90	81	72	90	81	72	90	81	90	81	72	90	81	72	90	81	90	845

you've got to ignore the comments of others. I'll be only too pleased to help if Sandy needs me. I've worked with him in the past on pre-set drills."

Lyle refused to comment on what he will be paying Leadbetter, but admitted: "He is being paid. Quite honestly, it will be worth every penny that I pay him if I get back into the old routine, and I already believe David is getting me back on track. For the first time in a long time, the ball is travelling in the direction that I am aiming."

Faldo is recognized as the best golfer in the world on present form and he is optimistic that he can retain his title this week, and the Dunhill Masters at Woburn next week.

"The course is firm and it will play both short and tricky," Faldo said. "These are drought conditions and nobody can do anything about that. It will be a tactical battle this week and I feel good about my chances."

"It is the start of an important run for me and obviously the US Open next month is on my mind. I believe it is possible to win the grand slam. Let's put it this way - if the bookmakers offered reasonable odds then I would back myself."

High finish: Lyle tries his new-style swing during practice at Wentworth yesterday

Macdonald blooms as she reaches semi-finals in style

By PATRICIA DAVIES

EVERYTHING in the garden was suitably rosy for Fiona Macdonald as she stylishly dispatched Julie Hogg and Sarah Burnell in the first and second rounds of the English women's amateur championship at Rye yesterday.

Macdonald, the landscape and garden designer who has been adopted by the members because of her well-publicized exploits in the President's Putter, was clad in pink shorts and a matching sweater, looking like a little girl in a pink dress.

There have been three Welsh winners - Phil Partridge, Paul Mayo and Richard Morris - and there is every possibility of a fourth emerging this weekend with an extremely strong contingent from the principality.

James Lee, Andrew Jones, Calvin O'Carroll and John Peters, all Welsh internationals, will be expected to do well on a course of which they are familiar.

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Gillies breezes to brilliant victory

By JOHN HENNESSY

COLIN Gillies, the leading Scottish amateur, played a brilliant round yesterday to win the Prince's Challenge, in spite of a fierce wind in the afternoon, dismissed by the locals at Sandwick as a mere breeze.

Gillies began at a sprint, with four birdies in the first five holes. He holed from off the green at the first, reached the 511-yard 2nd with a three-iron, and wedged close enough for three at the 4th and 5th.

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Welsh at home for a change

By CHRIS SMART

THE Tiltman Trophy Tournament, which was launched a decade ago mainly for aspiring internationals, breaks new ground today when the 130 competitors line up at Royal Portcullis, the first Welsh course to host the event.

James Lee, Andrew Jones, Calvin O'Carroll and John Peters, all Welsh internationals, will be expected to do well on a course of which they are familiar.

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Clancy pays for error

By GRAINE CLANCY

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Moody moves to BSB sport

By PETER BALL

BRITISH Satellite Broadcasting (BSB) is changing its head of sport to a new man after the station's launch. Roger Moody, the sports contracts manager of BSB, will replace Andrew Croker.

Croker, the son of the former secretary of the Football Association, is leaving to start his own independent sports promotions business after two years in the job, helping to set up the satellite's sports channel.

It is a perfectly sensible move, says Peter Ball, BSB's head of sport. "Andrew's main job was acquiring rights, and most of the deals are now in place for the next one or two years. Also, he felt it was time to move on to the next challenge."

Moody, whose departure from the BBC was almost instantaneous with the news

breaking yesterday, will work with Croker for a transitional period, but the move indicates that the job is to be mainly an administrative one.

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SPORT

Robson's decision ill-timed for England

THOSE with the welfare of England's World Cup team at heart are much less concerned with the muddle in the affairs of Bobby Robson's private life, and his new personal ambitions in the Netherlands, than with the muddle in England's selection and formations on the field.

It would have been better for the team if the Football Association had either terminated his appointment following the poor performance in the European championship two years ago, or accepted his alleged offer of resignation a year ago, at the time of the original revelations of alleged perccardios.

Either decision would have enabled a new manager to introduce a steady continuity of policy which has been absent — never mind a string of unbeaten matches only just terminated by Uruguay — and which, in my opinion, undermines England's prospects next month.

The timing of the announcement of Robson's departure after



David Miller

the World Cup, though carrying none of the secrecy of Don Revie's infamous defection 13 years ago during the qualifying competition, could hardly be worse. It puts an additional burden of responsibility on senior players, on the captain in particular. Yet rumours of dressing-room anarchy, during both the World Cup finals of 1986 and the European finals of two years ago, substantiated to a degree, were such as to question the manager's input of morale.

What Robson has done, like Revie, is to reduce the management of the national team to a mere commercial exercise. One job is about to end, grab a better one while the going is good. It is beside the point for him to draw comparison with Menotti or Michels, who had subsequent jobs

aligned at the time they respectively won the World Cup and European championship in 1978 and 1988. The way that Robson has handled this, allowing for the fact that he has been pressurised into an announcement by PSV, smacks of opportunism.

He was happy enough to have a contract with the FA that extended until next year. I doubt if the players, most of whom are equally financially expedient these days, will reflect on his actions too critically. Yet the nation, even in these mercenary times, expects something more dignified from the man who leads the national team.

Of course, Robson is happy, indeed glad, now to go because it is eminently convenient. Irrespective of further allegations concerning his private life, it is expected that this weekend he and PSV Eindhoven will confirm his appointment for next season at a salary of between £200,000 and £250,000 a year (he receives about £100,000 from the FA). He will

replace the recently dismissed Guus Hiddink, the coach of PSV when they beat Benfica, on penalties, in the European Cup final of 1988 in Stuttgart.

If an obvious, inspirational figure was instantly available, such as Jack Charlton, it would be in the FA's, and England's, interest immediately to release Robson from his contract and have a fresh figurehead for Italy. Robson has twice shown a failure to bring England to a peak and to produce a team, away from home, in which the sum of the whole was greater than the sum of the parts. Yet such ruthless action is not the way of the FA.

The time for a short-term injection of Brian Clough's brand of intimidatory inspiration, for so long the popular choice, is long past; and a sudden international career for him now might be as imperfect as his 40-day reign at Leeds United.

Frankly, in the short term, almost anyone is capable of managing a national team. The

massed bands of the England selectors, 30 years and more ago, did as good or poor a job as Revie, such an outstanding club manager. Joe Mercer, temporary replacement for the dismissed Sir Alf Ramsey in 1974, had instant relative success on tour that summer against East Germany, Bulgaria and Yugoslavia.

In other words, outstanding national managers are rare; average is the norm. So-called great managers depend on the co-incident concurrence of five or six World Cup players; Ramsey had this, Robson has not. But Robson has failed to give the continuity of tactical system that Ramsey did. He may well recapture with PSV the success he enjoyed with Ipswich Town, having the advantage of a stable club squad in which selection is not the haphazard, arbitrary problem it is for a national manager and which Robson, like Revie and at times Ron Greenwood, has never really fathomed.

In 11 years with Ipswich,

operating on a small budget in which the most expensive player purchased was Paul Mariner, Robson showed a grasp of tactics that placed both team and club on a firm footing. His initiative in signing Frans Thijssen and Arnold Muhren from the Netherlands set a trend, and he was unfortunate not to have won more titles than one FA Cup and one UEFA Cup.

In the present state of flux, England's performance in Italy will depend as much on the character of our players as their ability, but either way they will do well to reach the quarter-final for the second time in succession.

Meanwhile, the FA has to decide sooner than it had expected on a successor. Graham Taylor is thought to be the favourite, with Howard Kendall and Terry Venables close on his heels. Although Taylor was for a time the England Youth team manager while with Watford, it cannot be said that up to now he has done enough to justify his selection, having won nothing at the highest

level. Aston Villa's bid for the League title disintegrated during the run-in. Taylor is a fine coach, though I would wonder whether he is capable of withstanding the public pressures which inevitably bound the national manager.

Kendall, having worked with Athletic Bilbao in Spain and having behind him a winning record with Everton, seems to me the better equipped and is the more dogmatic and wilful man, qualities not inappropriate for the job. Venables, who had seemed a favourite when winning the Spanish League with Barcelona four years ago, has not improved his reputation during his formative and as yet unsuccessful seasons with Tottenham Hotspur.

For anyone, it is a thankless task, the impossible being expected by the public in a job where the working conditions are positively obstructive to producing coherent play. Men such as Ramsey, with that inner will-power and strength of mind, come only occasionally.

A sad and angry Robson to resign after World Cup

By DENNIS SIGNEY

BOBBY Robson's eight-year tenure as manager of the England football team will end on July 8 after the World Cup finals, whether or not his side wins the trophy. Robson, aged 57, will then join PSV Eindhoven, the Dutch club and former European Cup winners, as manager on a two-year contract said to be worth £500,000.

Robson told *The Times* that he had not resigned but felt he was "up for grabs" following a statement by an official of the Football Association that he had to win the World Cup. It seems clear that he decided to take the position with PSV as he felt that he had no long-term future as England manager.

Robson has strong links with The Netherlands. When he was manager of Ipswich Town, he signed Frans Thijssen and Arnold Muhren, the Dutch internationals.

While in charge as England manager, Robson twice rejected overtures from Barcelona and had repeated offers from home and abroad, but always insisted: "I am a patriot. I am passionate about the national side being successful."

A grim-faced Robson, accompanied by Graham Kelly, the chief executive of the FA, and Glen Kirton, head of external affairs, explained that his decision to go — he emphasised that he had never offered his resignation to the FA — followed a recent approach by PSV.

He went "openly and honestly" to see Bert Millichip, the chairman of the FA, who said it was unlikely that Robson's contract, which still has a year to run, would be extended.

"He gave me permission to speak to PSV," Robson said. "Those negotiations contin-

ued. We agreed to keep quiet until after the announcement of the England World Cup squad and until the team had left for the finals."

Robson added: "I am exceptionally angry and terribly disappointed to be leaving but PSV wanted an early decision."

He said he told the FA last Friday of his decision to leave after the World Cup finals and, on Tuesday, he and Kelly decided to announce the news simultaneously in Sardinia, London and The Netherlands on Monday.

Robson went on to say there was no truth in the stories that had appeared in some publications, at which point Robson shouted "barage".

Robson said he was "absolutely stunned" when he heard on Thursday that the story was appearing and he and Kelly both denied it to the newspaper concerned.

Robson, at times excitable and angry, said: "We tried to do the thing cleanly and nicely but now some of you have ruined that at a very timely moment as we've got to try and win the World Cup. I am appalled at the stories in the Press today. They are scurrilous lies."

"We are hopeful that the players will now be allowed to get on with the job of competing in the World Cup finals," Kelly said.

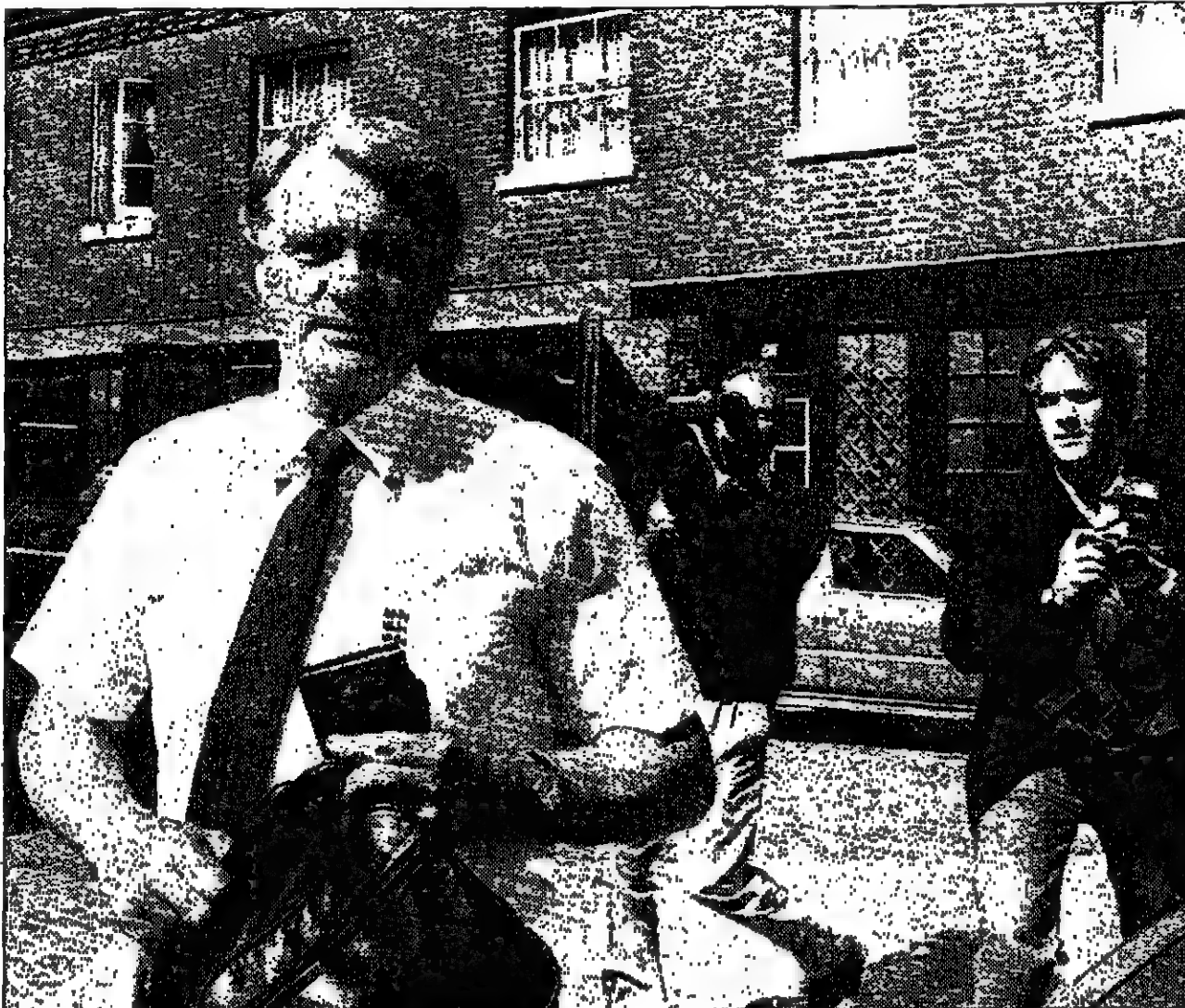
He declined to discuss the protocol of appointing a successor to Robson, saying an announcement would be made when the situation was finalized. "It is not our intention to make any announcement along the road," he added.

Zambian first

East Berlin (AP) — Webster Chikwaka, the Zambian footballer, has signed a two-year contract with Dynamo Dresden and will become the first foreign player in East Germany's top division.

Coaching post

The former Wigan rugby league wing, Denis Ramsdale, who was forced to retire because of injury, is joining the second division club, Chorley Borough, as an assistant to Bob Eccles, the coach.



Packing his bags: Bobby Robson, the England manager, is the focus of attention as he departs to Sardinia.

Riches at Robson's disposal

PSV Eindhoven, who won the European Cup in 1988, dismissed Robson's predecessor, Guus Hiddink, after the team failed to retain the Dutch first division championship this season, finishing a point behind Ajax. They had been champions for the four previous years.

They did, however, win the Dutch Cup, and Bobby Robson will inherit some outstanding players, including Van Breukelen, van Aarle, Vanenburg and Kieft, who have been included in the Netherlands' World Cup squad. Romario, the Brazilian forward who was the leading scorer in the Netherlands last season and this, will be the best known player at Robson's disposal. Financed by the electrical manufacturing company, Philips, PSV are among the richest clubs in the world. In the last three years they have sold Gullit to AC Milan and Koeman to Barcelona.

It may require a tactical rethink about how England approaches the international game and if that is the case then Taylor at least offers England a fresh impetus. He

Four lead line of succession

By CLIVE WHITE

WHEN Ron Greenwood resigned as England manager eight years ago, he left the way clear for the promotion of Bobby Robson. There is not an obvious successor this time. The favourite to replace him is Graham Taylor, of Aston Villa, but the FA's short list, when it is drawn up, will inevitably include the names of three other powerful candidates — Howard Kendall, Terry Venables and Howard Wilkinson.

Each has strengthened his claims in the season just ended. But successive England managers since Alf Ramsey have failed to transfer their form at club level to the international stage. Though Robson had a better record than most, the fact remains that England have not won a championship since 1966.

It may require a tactical rethink about how England approaches the international game and if that is the case then Taylor at least offers England a fresh impetus. He

believes in playing to what he describes as "English strength", such as fitness and discipline, utilized in a direct, unfussy approach. Yet he has always insisted that his controversial methods have been governed to a large extent by the players he had available.

Taylor, aged 45, gave an indication of what he can achieve with greater resources in the season just ended when his Villa team threatened the dominance of Liverpool until the final few weeks of the championship. It was a remarkable turn in his fortunes, having steered Villa just clear of relegation the season before.

As a former manager of England B teams he is familiar with the set-up at Lancaster Gate where there exist people of like minds on how the game should be played. Robson said earlier this year: "Graham Taylor is obviously a strong contender. He would do the job very well."

As a pioneer of the long-ball style, Taylor is used to criticism and as the son of a Scunthorpe sports journalist, he is only too aware of the hostility the media is capable of levelling at national team managers.

Kendall and Venables both have the advantage over Taylor of European club experience. Venables' star waned on his return from Spain three years ago but there are signs this season that he is building a team of substance at Tottenham Hotspur.

In domestic terms, none can rival Kendall's achievements while with Everton and he would undoubtedly perform the task of England manager with some dignity and respect. He has written into his contract at Manchester City that he can be released.

Wilkinson is the outsider of the quartet but has been involved with the FA for several years and is one of Robson's three advisers in Italy this summer.

Manager suffers a case of bad timing

From STUART JONES
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT
CAGLIARI, SARDINIA

AN UNDERCURRENT of tension has been flowing recently through Bobby Robson's press conferences. He has never been publicly at ease, especially in front of large assemblies of media representatives; and it seems logical to assume that the proximity of the World Cup finals was exacerbating his discomfort.

After announcing his line-up for the match against Denmark last week, for instance, he was first asked to clarify whether he intended to play Barnes up front. The question was legitimate, since the player had been selected as a winger in 49 of his previous 50 internationals.

Instead of offering a civil explanation, as has usually been the case whenever he has either unveiled the next tactic or introduced a new player, Robson answered curtly: "No, I'm playing him at right back. Next question." Later, he did confirm that Barnes would indeed be filling a central role.

Robson's position was weakened once Bert Millichip, the chairman of the Football Association, intimated that his contract would be extended only if England became the world champions in July. His resignation, therefore, is not surprising. The timing of the announcement is so preposterous as almost to defy belief.

He could have left after the 1986 World Cup, when his original plans were embarrassing unsuccessful. It was suggested that he should have gone after the fiasco of the European championship two summers ago. To say that he is leaving now threatens to undermine the confidence and the loyalty of his squad.

It also contradicts his own philosophy. Having felt utterly lost during his first two years in charge of England, he wanted to groom his successor and establish a dynasty similar to West Germany's Franz Beckenbauer, who stayed six months ago that he would be stepping down after the World Cup. Instead, England promise to arrive here in disarray and amid even more intense publicity.

Last time the soldiers of Dunkirk appealed for help people risked being shot, torpedoed and bombed. A small donation now won't kill you.

Help The Royal British Legion build a home to care for veterans of Dunkirk. Please send your donations to: The Dunkirk Memorial Appeal, Effingham, Surrey KT24 5JP, or call in at any branch of the Halifax Building Society. Credit card donations can be made simply by phoning 0839 800 999.



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DUNKIRK
1940-1990

The Dunkirk Memorial Appeal is administered by The Royal British Legion (Registered Charity Number: 219779) in association with The Royal Naval Association and with the full support of The Dunkirk Veterans Association and The Association of Dunkirk Little Ships.

UEFA will wait on behaviour of fans

From DAVID MILLER, VIENNA

A SUCCESSFUL run by England in the World Cup finals, in the absence of crowd trouble, will be both a help and a hindrance to the possibility of English football clubs returning to European competition next season.

Lennart Johansson, the president of UEFA, confirmed at the executive committee meeting here yesterday that he would await the approval, or disapproval, of the Government at the conclusion of England's performance. The longer England survive, therefore, the more difficult it will be for Colin Moynihan, the Minister for Sport, to prepare and submit a report to UEFA, which holds the first-round draw for the 1990-91 season on July 11, only three days after the World Cup final.

Bert Millichip, the chairman of the Football Association and a UEFA committee member, admitted that recent crowd trouble at Bournemouth and Newcastle had

prejudiced some of his UEFA colleagues, but said he considered that if the World Cup could be free of English crowd violence, "the chances are that our clubs could get back".

He was fully in sympathy, he said, with Moynihan's conviction that no decision could be taken until a measure of the new provisions on crowd control for travelling English spectators was available at the end of the World Cup programme.

"I do not believe the long-term interest of football is served by the banning of clubs," Johansson said, "but there must be support by those responsible if they are to return." He confirmed that there was no possibility for the executive committee to overturn the disciplinary committee's decision that Liverpool should continue to be banned for three years beyond any return date of other English clubs.

Death of England stalwart

JOHN Kendall-Carpenter, the former England rugby union captain, RFU president and chairman of the International Board, died yesterday at Wellington School, Somerset, where he had been headmaster for 13 years. He was 64 and due to retire at the end of this term.

He had been chairman of the organizing committee for the first World Cup and held a similar role in the preparations for the 1991 World Cup. Sandy Sanders, the president of the RFU, said he had been shocked by the news of his former team-mate's death.

"John was a robust man who seemed to be in excellent health, but he had been putting tremendous pressure on himself — flying about the world with the regularity that I commute to London. John loved to be involved and was, tremendously so," Sanders said. "He will leave a huge hole in the game."

Cup goes back to The Belfry

By MITCHELL PLATT, GOLF CORRESPONDENT

SEVERIANO Ballesteros last night lost his campaign for the Ryder Cup to be taken to Spain in 1993 when it was announced that The Belfry would again be the venue for the biennial encounter between Europe and the United States.

The only consolation for Ballesteros is that in announcing the verdict, after a meeting of 1½ hours during which the atmosphere was "business-like", the Ryder Cup committee stated that Spain would be the venue in 1997 subject to certain conditions being met.

John Lindsey, the executive director of the PGA and secretary of the Ryder Cup committee, said: "The choice for 1993 is The Belfry, subject to various guarantees and contractual arrangements, and in 1997 the match will be played in Spain, providing similar guarantees and contractual arrangements are met."

The decision was a victory for the Professional Golfers' Association and a disappointment for the PGA European Tour, whose support for Club

de Campo, Madrid, was full and unequivocal. Bernard Gallacher, the European captain, said: "I'm disappointed. I have no intention of telling Seve; he will know soon enough. It will be a disappointment to a lot of us. That, however, is how things go sometimes."

Lord Derby, the chairman of the Ryder Cup committee, had to use his casting vote to give The Belfry, where the Ryder Cup was held in 1985 and 1989, a majority decision. The three PGA members on the committee, Brian Anderson, David Huish and Philip Weaver, supported The Belfry and the three from the PGA European Tour, Neil Coles, Gallacher and Tony Jacklin, backed Club de Campo.

Emma Villaceros de Garcia-Ogata, the chairman of the Spanish Golf Federation, was livid about the decision. "It was at the Ryder Cup last year that I realized there was an internal fight in British golf," she said.

"I am very disappointed because I think we should stand together. The vote has gone against us. Now how can we trust the British? They have lost the chance to show that for once they could think European."

Gallacher stressed that he had accepted the decision and that he fully expected the Spanish golfers to try their hardest to make the team for 1991, when Europe will be defending the Ryder Cup, sponsored by Johnnie Walker, for a second successive time. Nick Faldo, the Masters champion, expressed surprise at the decision. "It's unbelievable," he said. "I think most of the other lads would agree. They might as well issue bumper stickers saying 'You WILL love The Belfry eventually'. Why not hold it there for the next 2,000 years?"

De Vere Hotels, the group that owns The Belfry, has spent more than £10 million on additions to the hotel and improvements to the course.

- COOK: DISHES WORTH POACHING
- DRINK: SWEET DESSERT WINES
- EATING OUT: JONATHAN MEADES
- SHOPPING: PICNICWARE PICK

The sowers of seeds by the wayside

PHOTOGRAPHS: GRAHAM WOOD/OSFORD SCIENTIFIC FILMS



Just when it looked as though many of Britain's wildflowers had vanished under the combined afflictions of pesticides and the plough, they have made a surprising comeback along trunk-road embankments and the central reservations of motorways. Despite the apparent blight of the Tarmac scars across the countryside and the pollution from millions of petrol engines, the sower's hand on the fringe of our road networks is proving a rich habitat for plant and animal life.

Drivers on main roads this year may have noticed a succession of spring flowers, from primroses, violets and wood anemones, to this month's stupendous show of cowslips and cow parsley, set against a backdrop of snowy May blossom.

In many cases, these flowers have established themselves by chance and have flourished for no other reason than they have been left alone, except for regular grass-trimming by maintenance workers. However, the Department of Transport, which recently commissioned a report on the spread of wildflowers on its land, is now planting a range of species in certain areas where previously they would have put down grass.

There are trial wildflower sites at Melbourn, Cambridgeshire, where the planting of small, container-grown plants into roadside verges is being assessed, and at Bromham, Bedfordshire, on the A428. Research is also taking place around the country to establish flowers in the soils which suit them best. There is, for example, a world of difference between the kind of planting and management required in the dry, eastern parts of the country, compared with that needed in the wetter conditions of North Wales, where the Welsh Office will soon be planting along the A55 coastal road in Gwynedd. Visitors to the National Garden Festival at Gateshead can see the results of wildflower trials on major roads near the site. The most successful plants will be established along the new western bypass for Newcastle.

In some cases, the standard DoT grass mixture of perennial



Primroses, violets, and anemones... the sweet-scented flowers of the field are now flourishing along our fume-filled motorways, says Francesca Greenoak. Even the birds of prey have found a new hunting ground

ryegrass and red fescue, which dominates all other kinds of vegetation in the short term, may be preferred, because of the cover it provides for small mammals.

Kestrels have become familiar hunters hovering above motorways as they seek prey such as field voles, which breed in the thick grass. The rare barn owls, for whom the field voles are also an important item of diet, have occasionally been seen searching for a meal along the road verges.

Richard Mabey, author of *The Roadside Wildlife Book* and *Unofficial Countryside*, two early forays into roadway ecology, says there has been a discernable increase in the number of trunk-road flowers since local authorities reduced the use of pesticides and cut verges less frequently. "It's a pleasure to drive on motorways now," he says. "The planting is so good on the M25 and the M40, and particularly on the M4 through the Wiltshire chalk, where there are masses of cowslips followed by meadow cranesbill in June."

Two favourite roadside habitats are bushy scrub, which provides a home for butterflies and small mammals, and cuttings through woodland, which give a shady, humid micro-climate, a bit like the old sunken lanes. But Mr Mabey is concerned that private contractors hired by some authori-

ties are returning to the bad old days of treating road verges like garden lawns.

While roadsides in many places are greening up nicely, the overall picture for many of Britain's best-loved grassland plants is one of continuing depletion, or outright loss. Grassland botanists at the Nature Conservancy Council have records showing a 60 per cent reduction of grassland habitat in Dorset between 1983-89, and something like 65 per cent grassland loss in Devon (not counting sites of special scientific interest).

"These are not unusually high figures," according to Dr John Hopkins, of the NCC. "In some counties, the only grassland rich in wildflower species is in SSSIs, which are protected by statute."

Terry Wells, of the Institute of Terrestrial Ecology, agrees that there is cause for concern. He points out that there are excellent areas of roadside, identified by a county wildlife trusts, which have been specially designated as roadside nature reserves because they are home to rare plant or animal species. These are separately managed for conservation "but represent a minuscule proportion — about 0.001 per cent of the total roadside area."

The greatest threats to wildflower grassland are from building development, agricultural practice

and road-building. Dr Hopkins says, but in the latter case there is something amounting to a revolution afoot. Last month, the ITE delivered the report, commissioned by the Department of Transport, entitled *Wildflower Swards for Trunk Road and Motorway Landscaping*, which is the most comprehensive survey undertaken in Britain.

The report was written in the form of a practical handbook for engineers and roadside managers and horticulturalists. It is no overstatement to say that the report could transform our attitude to major roads and road building, and make driving a more enjoyable experience. Before commissioning the report, the department had been encouraging, and closely monitoring, pioneer research into roadside wildflower management in several counties.

Robin Cure, the horticultural officer for the West Midlands responsible for the M40, began planning roadside wildflower trials at Water Orton, Warwickshire, six years ago. He experimented on flat and sloping plots, and different soil types. From the expensive original wildflower mixture, he identified "core species, including knapweed, ox-eye daisy, meadow buttercup, wild carrot and red and white campion, which can be depended on to do well in most of the soil and climatic conditions of the region".

Since then, he has built up recipes for chalky, limestone and alluvial localities, planting not on topsoil but on prepared seed beds of the local soil.

Sensitive after-care is also vital: cutting grass when the flowers have set seed, but before the grasses get thick and clumpy. The mowings have to be raked off afterwards, or they will act as a fertilizer. This is done by special machines in Germany and the Netherlands, but the sites are generally flatter there.

Mr Cure also takes public benefit into his equation, planting broad sweeps of wildflowers where drivers have a good, but not distracting, view, or in places where traffic naturally slows. Interchanges present exciting opportunities, not only because of the

large area of land involved, but because mature trees or existing marsh and meadow can be incorporated into the scheme, acting as a natural reservoir for the newly prepared roadside grounds.

What is being learned from the trials confirms that the conventional methods of road-making are not ideal for wildflower establishment. Tony Sangwine, a DoT horticultural adviser, points to the steep banks and the highly competitive DoT standard grass mixture. It is standard practice to scrape the surface of motorway sites, and smooth over about six inches of topsoil for the grass seed. This top soil is "a seedbank of rank weed seeds, and arable weeds: not at all the ideal soil for

wildflowers, most of which thrive in poor soils".

What engineers principally require of a roadside is a surface which is quickly covered with plantlife which will hold on to the soil and prevent erosion. The ubiquitous 6in "icing" of topsoil is not necessarily the best way to achieve this. Experts consider that identifying the nature of the surrounding landscape — say, chalk or acid grassland, woodland or heath — and landscaping the road to fit in, would be better both in terms of landscape and ecology.

It is not easy to try to recreate a version of an ancient habitat which has taken hundreds of years to develop a self-sustaining plant community, but ecologists are

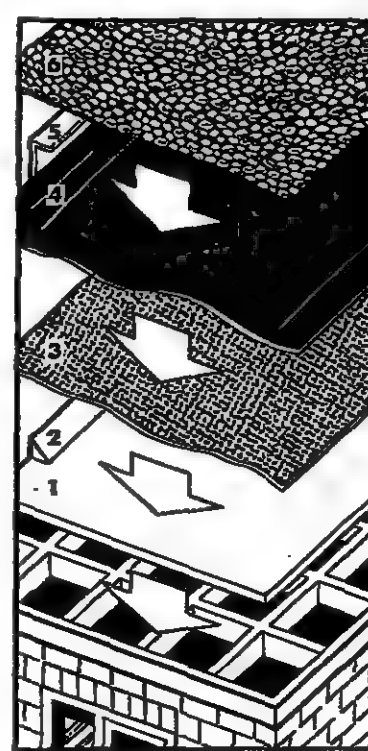
convinced that it can be done. Experience has already shown that if areas of good wildflower potential are identified, planted and managed appropriately, a rich diversity can be established and successfully maintained.

Ecological initiative on this scale is relatively new to Britain, but has long been practised in the United States, particularly in Texas, where Lady Bird Johnson, the forceful widow of President Johnson, supported a planting scheme. Thousands of Texan roadside hectares have been carefully sown and managed, and there are wildflower verge competitions between different districts. Mr Wells, who recently met

Continued overleaf

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Wildflowers bringing beauty to the motorways: among them (left to right), red campions, cowslips, wood anemones and orchids



THE NED SHERRIN COLUMN

A sweet pea by any other name

How about horticulture, finance, a funeral, Dunkirk, board games, wax-works and American television? Horticulture led me to tent city at the Royal Hospital. Hitherto I have only seen the Chelsea Flower Show on the flag-end of Friday, but this week I sneaked in while stands were still getting their finishing touches. Brogueed and tweeded ladies, ex-colonel lookalikes and horny-handed lads in jeans and muddy trainers were conspiring to give the temporary plots an air of permanence before the Queen arrived.

The favourite publicity trick for exhibitors is to name a flower after a celebrity. Sure enough, there at the entrance was Gertrude Shilling being photographed beside her eponymous yellow rose, her face peeping out of a mass of silk petals lovingly arranged by her hatter son, David. Unfairly, the lace across her face prevented her champagne glass from reaching her lips. "Didn't they name one after you?" I asked Penelope Keith, as she wandered by. She dismissed the idea airily, "Oh, that was five years ago."

Elsewhere, champion namers were at work. Over the years, S. & N. Brackley of Aylesbury has called its sweet peas after Noel Edmonds, Terry Wogan, Esther Rantzen, Alan Titchmarsh and Percy Thrower. This year its pea-person was Su Pollard, who cavorted amiably for the cameramen professing as much excitement about her unique honour as Mrs Shilling about hers.

Over at a fruit and veg stall, looking for signs of mad broccoli disease, was the politician of the week, John Gummer. People may be calling him names but no one named as much as a beetroot after him. I suggested it was unchristian to be paying so much attention to non-biblically approved vegetables, when Mr Gummer launched into a vicious attack on the Brussels sprout. (It gives off all sorts of noxious chemicals when cooked.)

He should have checked with the Carnivorous Plant Society, whose leaflets encouraged growers to meet and compare carnivores. I had a vision of little Gummer lured into a Venus fly-trap by a beebugger. The Belgians had the biggest but

most boring exhibit: Guernsey the most ambitious — an old mill by a stream; North East Fife Recreation Department the most bizarre — three calves and a stag at bay made out of bronze chrysanthemums. My palm goes loyally to Kelways of Langport, Somerset, for its trises in a spectrum of rusty shades.

By noon, the red carpet leading to the president's tent was unrolled and the sun was ticking the bricks of the Royal Hospital. "Quiet and dignified," Carlyle called it. "The work of a gentleman."

IT WAS, of course, the work of Sir Christopher Wren; and in Wren's cathedral, St Paul's, there was a memorial service for another gentleman, Lord McAlpine. I did not know Edwin McAlpine well but we both belonged to the same luncheon club. His was a generous and twinkling presence. As the great and the good turned up — the Prime Minister, her consort, and most of the Cabinet among them — I pondered the massive building commitments of the McAlpine and reckoned that Edwin and Sir Christopher would have understood one another. While Wren was building St Paul's, he was also designing and supervising the erection of no fewer than 50 other churches in the City.

THE small ships celebrating the "Miracle of Dunkirk" this week prompt another wartime comment

(from Chips Channon's diary). "At Dunkirk time the king had consulted the Chief Rabbi and they chatted. The rabbi, while assuring the monarch that all would finally be well, added that, 'all the same, Sir, I would put some of the colonies in your wife's name'."

NEVER having been there in 59 years, I have now been to Madame Tussaud's twice in seven days. (This week it was voted Britain's best attended fee-paying attraction.) The first occasion was a massive party for Skilball — a game I imperfectly understand but which sounds suspiciously like a National Lottery. However, Nicholas Scott was in attendance so I suppose it is kosher.

The second visit was for the marriage of Bob Bryan (of Cantabile) to Andrea Curle, the cartoonist. All the waxworks in the "Garden at Midnight" look smaller than life, but I was assured they are not. Mrs Thatcher agrees with me. "I've just come from Willie Whitelaw," she told Tussaud's once, "and he's a lot fatter than that." New dummies include Jane Seymour, Dudley Moore and Kylie

Minogue. Arthur Scargill looks unhappy and left out of it. He is surely a candidate for melting down. Paul Getty has already been consigned to the Windsor branch where he does duty as an anonymous tramp on a park bench.

I'm glad they've given up some of old Madame Marie's methods. During the French Revolution she went to the guillotine to take death masks from the severed heads of aristos. On second thoughts, with murmurs of another miners' strike, maybe they are thinking of bringing Arthur's dummy up to date...

MORE inside news from the world of American sitcom-writer from Andrew Nickolds' scriptwriter chums Brian and Merv. Do you know what a "Hey, May!" is?

It is a phrase used in the United States to describe the cliff-hanging end of the first half of a 30-minute sitcom. The theory is that the American couch-potato husband sits in front of his set with his six-pack and, if intrigued, yells to the little woman in the kitchen. "Hey, May! You've gotta see this!" No "Hey, May!" means no audience for Act Two.

LIBBY PURVES

If I were...

If I were Tracy Edwards, almost home from the sea, I would be looking forward to a hot bath and a good therapeutic weep of relief that I had got my 11 crew-mates back safely and was no longer responsible for anyone else's life. I would also allow myself a brief 10 minutes of private crowing at the thought of those 300 companies who refused to sponsor our boat because they reckoned we would drown. I would thumb my soapy nose at those creeps in yachting hats who said an all-girl crew would never have the strength. And as I pulled the plug, I would dedicate its last gurgles to the male chauvinist swines who were aboard Atlantic Privater in the last race, when I was cook, and who had a bet running on who could make me cry first. I swore then I would skipper my own boat and show the lot of them.

I would be thinking of a quiet drink with Clare Francis. She is the only other woman to have captained a round-the-world race yacht and may have a few pointers as to how one can gracefully descend from nine months of high adventure to the banality of



... Tracy Edwards

everyday life. Mind you, there were men in her crew, so she never encountered the curious disorientation of being thrown back into mixed society. I begin to understand how servicemen feel when they get back from distant postings: uneasy with the opposite sex and needing to bolt into men's clubs for shelter.

I am like that: fresh from the friendliness of working with 11 honorary sisters, I know I shall find something odd about the way men treat me. I shall have to get used to them showing the customary degree of kindly condescension thought due to a young woman.

Maybe I shall need to borrow a boat and get back out to sea some time this summer, just so I can think clearly. On land, between the lunatic questions of the media and the tacit, concerted attempts by men to throw me off-balance, I shall risk suffering a sudden sense-of-humour failure. And I know that if I ever do stop smiling, they'll call me rude sexist things. When did you ever see a picture of Sir Francis Chichester smiling? But one furrow in my brow and I'll be branded an unfriendly bitch.

I would not be human if I did not feel female biology lying in ambush. I am pushing 30, I might get married, I might have children within the next five or six years. Someone is bound to tell me that childbirth will be the greatest adventure of my life, and only I will think back with irony to the Southern Ocean.

I can't understand the tabloid papers saying how difficult it will be for me to settle down with boyfriend Simon. They say he "isn't even a yachtsman", as if that were a problem. Don't they realize I have just sailed 32,000 miles to get away from yachtsmen?

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Mourvèdre 1989, Baron de Cussac, Vin de Pays d'Oc. Spicy, peppery and full of black fruit on the nose. Immense fruit on the palate.

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THE WHITES

Muscet Primaire 1989, Vin de Pays des Côtes de Thongue. The sweet smell of grapes is beautifully complemented by a crisp acidity that makes the wine deliciously light and dry.

Les Asces 1989, Cote de Labastide de Lévis, AC Gaillac. A dry white with the essence of peaches and green apples. Subtle and delicious on the palate. Very Muscadet in style.

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A CHILDHOOD: DESMOND MORRIS

'A fox once dashed across in front of my pram. I still remember where it happened'

by Ray Connolly

In all his childhood Desmond Morris cannot recall his mother ever saying to him "don't do that", never once, not even when he had 200 toads jumping around the house and the whole place was alive with snakes, lizards, foxes, voles and mice. In retrospect he finds it quite extraordinary.

His parents must have got on with animals, too, because there were always dogs, cats and horses around the place. "I'm not musical," he says, "but I think if you grow up with music then you become musical. I grew up in a family where there were animals and I became a zoologist."

"It happens by a diffusional process, not a training, but an exposure to things."

The exposure began early. Indeed, his first memory of childhood is of seeing a fox dash across the path of his pram. "I must have been terribly young but I can still see it. The nanny who was pushing me got very excited. I haven't been there from that day to this but I could still find the spot in the lane where it happened."

Born in 1928, an only child, Desmond Morris's childhood was much concerned with watching his father suffer from the after-effects of being gassed in the First World War. He had been left with only one half of one lung.

"He was a very dignified man and did not enjoy, or even admit to, his injuries, but as I became an increasingly active growing boy he was going into a decline."

Unable to continue in his profession as an engineer because of his illness, his father wrote children's stories, although not successfully. Mr Morris's first memory is of the tapping of a typewriter in the house. He learnt to type as a little boy and can still type more quickly than he can write.

They lived at first in a large house in the Wiltshire countryside, but then moved to Swindon when his father, giving up on the writing, started a small business making and servicing domestic cigarette dispensers. It was always a struggle.

The Morris family was established in the Swindon area, indeed Desmond Morris's great-grandfather had started the first penny paper there in the 19th century. A great populist, William Morris (not either of the famous ones) believed that working people were purposely being kept ignorant.

If they don't know anything, he argued, how will they know how to vote? So he set up printing presses and wrote and edited the (then weekly) *Evening Advertiser*, still going in Swindon today.

"He was a great Victorian naturalist and had a huge collec-

tion of rocks and fossils in boxes in the attic. I never knew him, of course, but when I was about six I discovered his boxes which my father had been too ill to do anything about. And in one of them was his beautiful brass microscope.

"That's what started me off, because with the microscope I found a fascinating world. I would rush off and collect water from ponds and stare at the things I found under the microscope. Luckily for me, we had a family lake which was full of animal and plant life."

They also had an aviary, not a normal one like most people who are interested in birds, but a huge one which came right into the house. Desmond Morris's father built that.

"It was wonderful in that the birds could fly around and breed outside, but then they could also come through the hole in the wall

World War, and religion because I remember how the Church was once again excusing war and selling the idea that it was all right to suffer in this terrible way in this life, because everything would be all right in the next."

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"So I began looking at other books on contemporary art and started making these very strange surrealist sketches. No one wanted me to do it, and I don't know why it didn't die out as I grew older. Now it's the thing I care about more than anything and I divide my time between painting and writing."

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He had pitched a tent on the island. He showed her his fish and she showed him how to jiggering. It sounds idyllic. Her name was Diana Fluck. She later changed it to Diana Dors.

"What I remember most about Diana, and you must remember we were both very young at the time, was her enormous energy and liveliness."

At 18 he was conscripted into the Army, but not before a brush with a career in medicine. "Some members of the family thought I

should be a doctor, although I thought I'd seen enough illness. Like a dutiful son, however, I took the exam to go into medicine, but during the practical I swallowed some chemical and had to be taken out, frothing at the mouth."

"That was the end of my medical career. I didn't do it deliberately, but I've often thought that accidents are not accidental."

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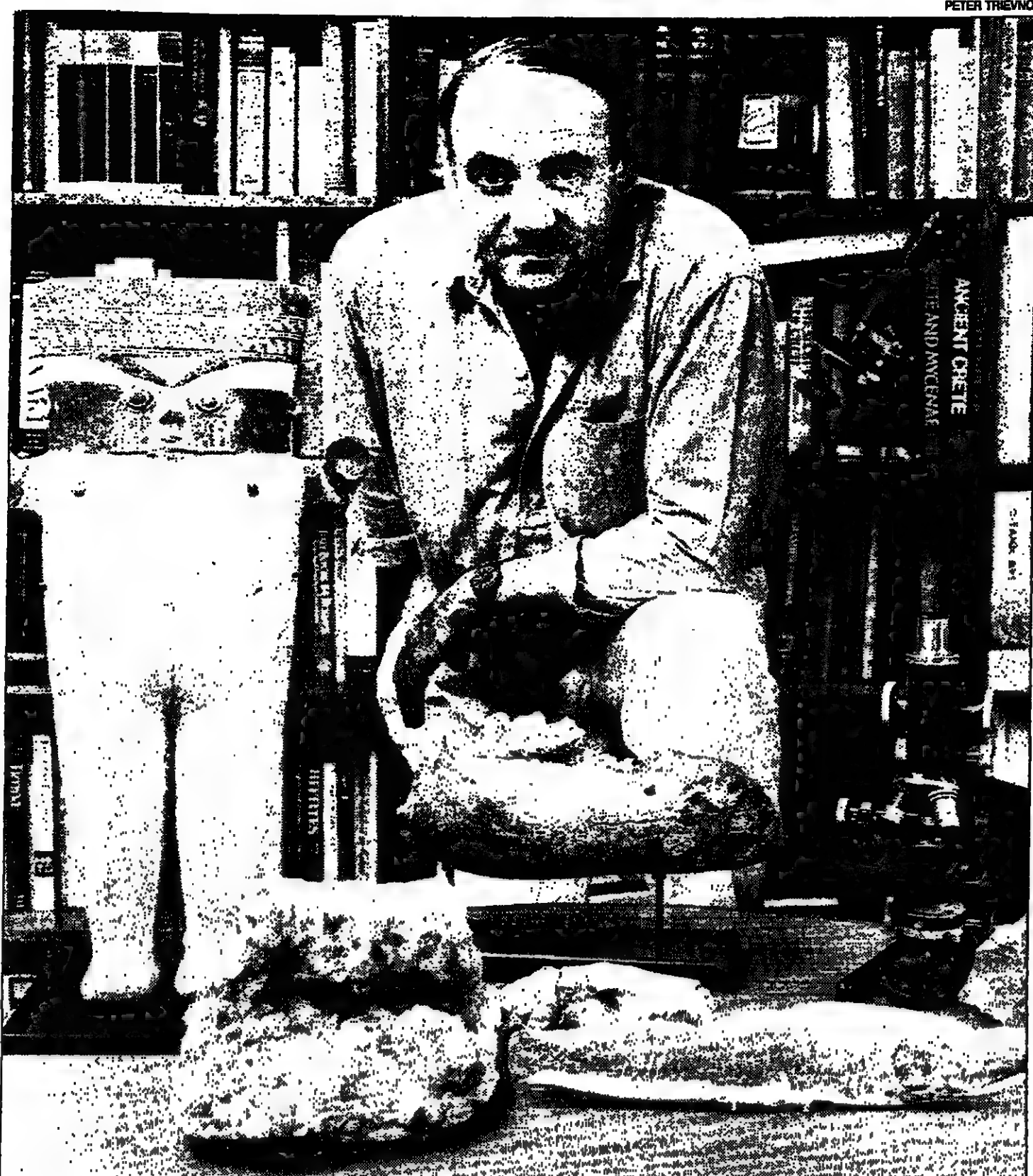
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Desmond Morris and, left, as a child: "My father built an aviary where you could see the birds without destroying their environment"

into the house, so that you could watch them and be intimate with them without destroying their environment."

He has been watching animals ever since, indeed, a new book to be published this year is called *Animal Watching*. His latest book, his first as a campaigner, *The Animal Contract* has just been published.

When he was 14 his father died. It had been apparent for some time that he was failing but, perhaps because he did not witness the death or attend the funeral, Desmond Morris was unable to accept it. For some time he convinced himself that his father was in a nursing home and would reappear eventually.

"You don't realize it at the time, but I'm sure this was where my rebellion against sheer mindless authority began. Certainly I decided at that time I would never have anything to do with religion or politics. Politics, because it was politicians who had sent my father off to the trenches of the First

World War, and religion because I remember how the Church was once again excusing war and selling the idea that it was all right to suffer in this terrible way in this life, because everything would be all right in the next."

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The sowers of seeds

Continued from page 31

Mrs Johnson, reflects, wistfully, that "it would help if someone of her influence would get involved here."

Plants have always had a low priority in Britain: laws protecting them lagged far behind those to protect birds. In Texas, women's gardening clubs appealed to the highway department not to damage wildflowers as long ago as 1929, and the state highway engineer issued a mandate, still in force, preventing the mowing of bluebonnets (the state flower) until they had set seed.

Although we have started late, the potential is enormous. Even roadsides, not designated for special wildflower sowings need not necessarily be green ribbon. Planting strong-growing wildflowers would enliven them and create a habitat for further colonization.

During road-making or widening, it has been suggested that the steep slopes could be graduated into a series of terraces, going down in broad steps to road level, creating a good habitat with thin and thicker soil levels, light, shade and shelter, which would encourage a diversity of plant and insect life.

This is an area of development which particularly interests Dr Jeremy Thomas of the ITE at Furzebrook, Dorset. He has been investigating butterfly populations on 12 trunk and A-road sites in southern England. His observations that "most verges are extremely poor", he attributes not to the busyness

of the roads, nor to their isolation from diverse country areas, but to the failure of the plants in the grass sward to meet precise conditions needed for even some of the common butterflies; let alone rare ones.

The beautiful and rare Adonis blue butterfly, for example, requires not only its caterpillar foodplant (horse-shoe vetch, found normally only on chalky soils) but vetch in sparse grass with shelter, baked really hot by the sun.

Roadside habitats benefit a wider range of bird species than may be at first apparent. The RSPB has made a study of motorways, and the list of "regulars" includes seed-eaters, such as goldfinches and linnet, wags, who adore the acres of Tarmac at service stations, and scavengers, such as crows, sparrows and starlings, who benefit from apple cores and crusts thrown from cars. Herons, snipe and tawny owls have been spotted at Spaghetti Junction, and sparrowhawks at Chorleywood.

Among the vegetation, there are already isolated examples of roadside colonization by orchids and other, rarer, wildflower species, and there are even new apple varieties which have grown up along major roads and which are now fruiting.

Perhaps we can look forward to the day when all roadsides in Britain are flowery corridors alive with birdsong.

Kestrels have become familiar hunters hovering above motorways as they seek field voles, which breed in the thick grass

In last week's handy guide to Eton College, Philip Howard drew attention to the fact that Captain Hook was an Old Etonian. I would go further, believing the good Captain to be not merely an Old Etonian, but the Old Etonian, the archetype against whose shining example all other Old Etonians may catch a glimpse of themselves.

In this, the first of a two-part series on the most distinguished of fictional Old Etonians, I will be explaining how Hook's idiosyncratic personality may be traced back to Eton, and comparing his character with those of recent Old Etonians at Westminster.

On Wednesday, when the 550th anniversary celebrations have all been and gone, I will examine in some detail a speech made by J. M. Barrie in 1927 to the First Hundred at Eton College in which he described what became of Hook when the pirate submitted to nostalgia shortly before his tragic death and paid a melancholy visit to his beloved old school.

"In person, he was cadaverous and blackfaced, and his hair was dressed in long curls, which at a little distance looked like black candles, and gave a singularly threatening expression to his handsome countenance." Thus begins Barrie's description of Captain Hook in his 1911 novelization of *Peter Pan*. This is the Hook that everyone remembers, the Hook recreated in Christmas pantomimes. Though there might be a hint of Thorpe O. E., or even Gower O. E., in that purely physical description, there is little uniquely Etonian about it.

But the passage that follows is, to my mind, strongly reminiscent of Etonians in general and of one prominent Etonian in particular: "His eyes were of the blue of the forget-me-not, and of a profound melancholy, save when he was plunging his hook into you, at which time two red

CRAIG BROWN Showing a true lack of breeding

spots appeared in them and lit them up horribly." This is a description of Hook O. E., but would it not serve every bit as well as a description of Hailsham O. E.?

When Hook enters, Barrie rather loses interest in the lightweight Peter Pan (a minor public school boy if ever there was one) for Hook is so much more compelling.

Certainly, Hook's is a primarily Etonian character of a type that holds good to this day, as witness the uncanny resemblance between Hook as described in *Peter Pan* and two prominent figures in today's House of Commons, both indicated in my parentheses: "He was never more sinister than when he was most polite, which is probably the truest test of breeding, and the elegance of his diction, even when he was swearing, showed him one of a different caste from his crew" (Dalyell O. E.). "In his mouth he had a holder of his own contrivance which enabled him to smoke two cigars at once..." In argument, "the hook shoots forth, there is a tearing around and one screams, then the body is kicked aside..." He has not even taken the cigars from his mouth" (Ridley O. E.).


Barrie excels in the depiction of the Etonian love of manners. He seems to know instinctively that Etonians do not so much have good manners as employ good manners. For Hook, any action is permissible so long as it is a correct form of manners, which indeed they are largely concerned. Thus it was offensive to him even now to board a ship in the same dress in which he grappled her, and he still adhered in his walk to the school's distinguished slouch. But above all he retained the passion for good form. Good form! However much he may have degenerated, he still knew that this is all that really matters." This passage comes peculiarly close, most will agree, to a description of Macmillan O. E., who, within a week or two of his Night of the Long Knives, was heading for the grouse moors, impeccably dressed, as always, in his knickerbockers and gaiters.

Barrie penetrated to the heart of the Etonian with another facet of Hook's personality. The Etonian is never quite convinced of the existence of people who did not go to Eton, and even if he acknowledges their existence, he is still pretty sure that they don't really count. In his dreams, Hook is haunted by the ghost of Eton, who asks him "Is it quite good form to be distinguished at anything?" to which Hook replies: "I am the only man whom Barbecue feared, and Flint himself feared Barbecue." The ghost then cuts in with the damning retort, "Barbecue, Flint — what house?"

That quintessential Etonian characteristic, unquenchable nostalgia for school days, echoed later by Cyril Connolly in his theory of permanent adolescence, overtakes Hook in his last moments. Peter Pan's yearning for his mother is as nothing next to Hook's yearning for Eton. "As he staggered about the deck striking up at them impotently, his mind was no longer with them; it was slouching in the playing fields of long ago, or being sent up for good, or watching the wall game, and his shoes were right, and his waistcoat was right, and his tie was right, and his socks were right."

Before the jaws of the crocodile finally close around him, Hook is granted the ultimate wish of so many Etonians: that their enemies might reveal a lack of true breeding. Hook tricks Pan into kicking him overboard. "At last, Hook had got the boon for which he craved. "Bad form", he cried jeeringly, and went content to the crocodile." In the play, the words are different, but the emotion is the same: "Floreat Etona."





Good Will to the elderly

Over 8,000 elderly people who would otherwise be living alone now enjoy the benefit of privacy and companionship in an Abbeyfield House. These small caring households for 7-10 elderly people have a 'family' atmosphere and encourage independence within a familiar neighbourhood.

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FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

Property takeovers by Jewish settlers are creating new tensions in Jerusalem, Richard Owen reports



Duck through a low doorway just off Ararat Street in the Old City of Jerusalem and you enter a cool courtyard surrounded by stone houses, an idyllic looking retreat from the heat of the day. But a large yellow sign proclaims "Danger - building unsafe". The place is deserted. Next door the Assyrian church of St Mark's, where the Virgin Mary is said to have been baptized, is propped up by scaffolding. "Sewage", says a local resident from the Armenian community. "Deliberate neglect. The Jewish quarter next to us is properly maintained. But streets in the Armenian and Christian quarters are subsiding because the old Ottoman-era drainage system is in bad repair."

The authorities deny the charge. But the Israeli aim, residents claim, is to make houses uninhabitable so that they can then be bought by Jewish settlers as part of a systematic campaign to "infiltrate" the Old City. Ariel Sharon (the right-wing former minister) has already offered us \$4 million for houses here, "one official of the Armenian Church says. "Of course we refused. But these people never give up. They are fanatics."

This week Arab-Jewish tensions turned into violence after the murder of seven Arabs in an Israeli town a week ago. One of the causes of the growing ill-feeling has been the dispute about whether Israel has the right to build settlements in sensitive areas reaching into the heart of old Jerusalem. This has brought to the surface charges and countercharges of skulduggery and intrigue, involving government ministers, church officials, extremists, middlemen and millionaires.

The row at Easter over the occupation by Jewish settlers of St John's Hospice, a Christian pilgrim's hostel next to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, caused an international outcry. The Israeli supreme court evicted most of the 150 settlers, and is expected in due course to give a final ruling on whether the Greek Orthodox Church, which owns the hospice, is right to claim that the lease was sold to the settlers illegally, through a Panamanian front company and a dubious Armenian middleman. But church officials are alarmed by growing evidence that the St John's Hospice affair is merely "the tip of the iceberg", with Jewish settler groups planning to take over sections of the Old City backed by the right-wing ministers in Yitzhak Shamir's government, despite the United States' disapproval and threats to withhold aid. "Is there a ban on living in Jerusalem?" Mr Shamir remarked, when asked why the housing ministry had given the St John's Hospice settlers almost \$2 million.

Land and religion lie at the heart of the Arab-Israeli struggle. The walled Old City is peopled mainly by Arabs, Christian and Muslim, with the Jewish quarter taking up only 15 per cent of the area. Most western tourists marvel at the colourful covered souk, or market, and the holy sites in the four quarters: Jewish, Muslim, Christian and Armenian. But hidden from view, in small cafes where old men suck hookah pipes and drink Turkish coffee, secret and

Monopoly in the city of faith



complex deals are struck. Real names are not used: agents and dealers use "paper" companies to disguise the identities of their clients. The "middlemen", I was told, "are those with their backs to the door". With the *Intifada* (Palestinian uprising) still going strong after two and a half years, anyone who sells property to "the Jews" - meaning the nationalist, ultra-religious settlers - runs the risk of a revenge killing on a dark night. On the other hand, such risks have driven the property prices - and the middlemen's rewards - even higher. The favourite venue for particularly sensitive deals is a modest-looking cafe, away from the Old City, on Jerusalem's main shopping street and, oddly, within sight of the main police station.

The result is that a growing number of settlers, armed with Torahs and sub-machine-guns, have begun moving, with little or no publicity, into the heart of the Muslim area. "If we are not careful, Jerusalem will flare up, out of control," Khalid, a Muslim activist, says. The crumbling charm of the Arab houses contrasts with the breezy intrusion of newer, newly renovated Jewish properties, each with a large Star of David flag hanging prominently outside - a badge of pride to the Jews, a provocation to the Arabs. "This will become another Beirut."

From the Jewish point of view, the property deals, even if arrived at through front organizations in Panama and Liechtenstein, are legitimate. Critics, Israelis say, carry a strong whiff of Christian anti-Semitism - for example, the recent statement by Cardinal John O'Connor of New York that the Jewish intrusion into the Christian quarter is "obscene". From

1948 to 1967, the Old City was in Jordanian hands and the Jewish quarter was vandalized. Since 1967 and the unification of Jerusalem under Israeli rule, the Israelis have restored the Jewish quarter and have maintained relatively free access for Arabs to Islamic and Christian holy places. Under a supreme court ruling, non-Jews are excluded from the Jewish quarter, and Arabs have been evacuated from it.



Nevertheless, militant settler groups such as Ateret Cohanim (Garland of the Temple Priests), which masterminds many of the secret deals, argue that Jews have the right to live in any quarter, as they did before 1948. The area around St John's Hospice once contained several Jewish shops. The Greek Orthodox patriarch, Israeli sources say, opposes the settlers only because he was threatened with death by the Palestine Liberation Organization. Arab Christians, they add, should remember that they are a diminishing minority under pressure from Muslim activists to join in the *Intifada*, and should welcome their new Jewish neighbours.

Muslim and Christian residents, on the other hand, see a more sinister motive: a campaign, backed by Mr Shamir's party and Jewish businessmen in the United States, to drive out Arabs completely. The St John's Hospice affair marks the first attempt by Jews to move into the Christian quarter since 1967. But more than 30 properties (the Arabs put the figure much higher) in the Muslim quarter have already been acquired by Ateret Cohanim and

other groups closely linked to the fanatically anti-Arab Gush Emunim (Bloc of the Faithful) and to Rabbi Meir Kahane, the extremist leader banned from Israeli elections as a "racist". Rabbi Kahane's personal lawyer works for Gush Emunim; he also turned up as a spokesman for the St John's Hospice settlers. The settlers' leaders are not otherworldly rabbis, but smooth professionals armed with walkie-talkies and sub-machine-guns and wearing a uniform of white shirt, black trousers and kippa (skull cap).

The unsettling settlers' representatives are not forthcoming about their plans. But in the backstreet cafes you can learn how the deals are conducted through middlemen, known in Arabic as *simsars* - usually "renegade" Arabs who buy property from fellow Arabs without revealing that they intend to "sell on" to the settlers and yeshiva (seminary) students. The *simsars* buy houses, according to Adnan Hussein of the Islamic Waqf, the trust which administers mosque property, by "pressuring home owners, using drugs to obtain signatures, forging documents, harassment, intimidation and, if all else fails, by selling property which is not theirs". The settlers, he says, can then acquire squatting rights. "They stop at nothing," Khalid confirms. "In a house next to mine the settlers took one room, then three more in the same building. One remaining room was still occupied by an old Arab lady, so they simply set fire to it. She went to hospital, and they moved in. They throw tear gas into my house, fire guns, and sing through amplifiers until dawn. The police do nothing."

After this week's riots, which have reinforced Palestinian self-assertion, Arabs in the Old City

are more likely to adopt more belligerent tactics of their own in resisting Jewish "encroachment".

Whispers in the kasbah, confirmed by officials, reveal that the attempted acquisition of St John's Hospice took shape, not just before Easter, but nearly a year ago, at a sumptuous dinner at the New York Hilton, organized by Ateret Cohanim and attended by then Mayor Ed Koch. The main speaker was Ariel Sharon, who three years ago bought (through a middleman) a house in the Muslim quarter. (It now has to be guarded by troops night and day.)

With written backing from two government ministers, the settlers raised several million dollars from Erwin Moscovitch, a Jewish businessman from Miami, and from Hemanuta, the property agency of the Jewish National Fund, an official Israeli body. The "target" was an Armenian businessman who had leased St John's, in poor repair, from the Greek Orthodox Church, and claimed (falsely, it seems) that he had the right to sell. The front company used for "the sting" was based in Panama, and the *simsar* was a Lebanese Arab. The Armenian businessman, several million dollars richer, but in hiding, claims he was "duped".

Now the talking point in the smoke-filled cafes of the kasbah is how far the government is involved - and how much further it and the settlers will go. The ministries of housing and of religious affairs have both given Ateret Cohanim many thousands of dollars for "renovations", and the government is transferring 26 "absentee landlord" properties under its control to the settlers. On the other hand, the row over St John's Hospice - which apparently took the settlers and their backers by surprise - has brought unwelcome exposure. The Jerusalem police have injunctions ordering Arabs out of 20 more properties in the Muslim quarter acquired by Jewish settlers, but are not acting on them for the time being "because there is no need to create further friction". This is a blow to those ultra-religious settler leaders whose aim appears to be to build up Jewish communities in the cluster of streets which adjoin the sacred Temple Mount, in Islamic hands since the 7th century and now dominated by the Muslim Golden Dome of the Rock, but formerly the site of the ancient Jewish Temple.

There is little doubt in the Old City that the settlers will continue to raise funds to take over more houses. The settlers point out that Israel is a Jewish state, and that, although Christian and Muslim rights are respected, the Old City is no longer under either Christian or Muslim control. The Arabs, however, are preparing to fight back against what they see as Israeli attempts to control east Jerusalem and the Old City, and to consolidate Jerusalem as the undivided and eternal capital of Israel. The Arabs have now formed a Christian-Muslim committee to try to raise funds (allegedly backed by the PLO) to buy up property and so beat the Jewish settlers at their own game. If they are unsuccessful, areas of Palestinian residence could be cleared within 10 years, leaving only major historical sites such as museums and schools, with the souk remaining as what one commentator has described as a "Biblical Disneyland" for tourists.

FARMYARD DIARY

Getting on with Christmas dinner

I AM rapidly learning that farming is not unlike the greetings card industry: whatever the calendar might say, you must ignore it and think unseasonably ahead. Therefore on this spring bank holiday I shall be entirely preoccupied with our animals' Christmas dinner. I am determined that our stock will have a good supply of succulent winter feed and so, like a frenzied chambermaid, I have been getting ready the beds in which the seed will lie. We are going to grow turnips for the sheep, kale for the cows and mangel-wurzels for the lot of them, including horses and pigs. Kale is like a big leafy cabbage, but with no heart. Mangel-wurzels, on the other hand, are

Sometimes it will be an old horseshoe, or a rusty part of an old plough. So far, we have collected an average of five horseshoes to the acre; a farmer tells me most of them are a hundred or more years old.

Harrowing provides good time for thought. It hardly requires any concentration, unlike ploughing, which demands precision. A good pair of horses soon learn the job, and know which way they are to turn when they get to the end of field. Of course, you must not let your thoughts wander too far; I am sure that my horses sense when I am not concentrating. I have noticed that if I allow my mind to go completely blank, the horses will invariably stop dead and one will turn his head right round to see if I am still behind him.

But nothing is predictable when you farm with horses. The other morning I happened to have a horse named Punch, an experienced and versatile horse. I sensed something was wrong. I led him up the field and harnessed him to the ribbed roller. I told him to "Gr up" and he ceased



Preparing seed beds is pleasant work when you farm with cart-horses. Pulling harrows and heavy rollers is good, steady, regular exercise for them; for me it is a satisfying process of reducing the boulders of soil that the plough has left into a fine (but not so fine) powdered state, so that the seed will snuggle down into it and be fed and watered as it grows. If the soil is not worked enough, the seed will sit between the lumps and starve to death and Christmas dinner in the farmyard will be a poor affair of hay and miserable manufactured concentrates. I am sure that concentrated feed, like some dreary breakfast cereal, has got all the right proteins, vitamins and minerals in it; but to me it looks too much like astronaut food. As much of the meat produced in this country goes into junk food production, feeding it overprocessed junk in the first place seems to be starting the downward spiral unnecessarily early.

I was beginning to think that I knew every inch of the field in which the kale and turnips are to grow, but every time I take a horse across it there is a surprise.

one step forward and froze. "Grrrr UP." I growled and he tried hard to obey but could not bring himself to do so. Instead, he reared his head and behaved for all the world like a horse that had just had the fright of his life. Rather than risk damage, I led him back to the stable. He breathed heavily and unhappily. I gave him some hay and let him munch. An hour later he was back on the field, plodding merrily along as if nothing had happened.

I get my moods, too. I look at the expanse of the fields and then at the pitiful narrowness of the furrow and I wonder how I will ever get it all done. And then in my mind comes a phrase from an old farmer neighbour: "There's nothing to farming, boy," he told me, "as long as you get on with it."

With that in mind, I am trudging on, making the beds for the kale and the turnips. Our sheep, cows and pigs are behaving terribly well considering they are in the charge of a novice. The least I can do to ensure them a good Christmas dinner.

Paul Heiney

CAMPUS

The north-south housing divide

Eliminating welfare benefits for students could be a disaster, Richard Patient says

Professor Gordon Higginson, the vice-chancellor of Southampton University, was forthright when he heard about the proposal to stop students claiming welfare benefits next year. "It seems as if it is going to be a disaster," he said when he heard that a committee of government advisors had delivered a report which was critical of the plan.

Many students share the concern of their vice-chancellor and feel that the proposed elimination of housing benefit will bring much resentment and worsen poverty among students. The scheme looks likely to be implemented along with the top-up loan system which will give

students in the north paying less than £20 a week, the withdrawal of housing benefit will mean fewer students will be attracted to the expensive south. Professor Higginson said that housing was a big expenditure for thousands of students.

A second report, supported by half the members of the committee, claims that the elimination of benefits will hit students from poorer backgrounds particularly hard.

Tony Newton, the Secretary of State for Social Services, is now considering the two reports and believes the best method of resolving the problem is to set a level of income through the student grant and loan system.

He says that students should never have been paid housing benefit in the first place. But students are on housing benefit, and Mr Newton's suggestion does not ease the problem of the wide differences between rents in different parts of the country. Instead it makes a northern university a more appealing prospect than one in the south.

If the government wishes to increase the numbers of highly educated people in the workforce, it should consider the consequences indicated by these reports and continue to provide housing funds so that young people can afford to study wherever their university or polytechnic may be.

The House of Lords may yet foil the government's plan and I hope the House of Commons sees sense too. Although NUS has not demonstrated against these specific proposals, passive demonstrations will undoubtedly follow, leading, perhaps, to fewer young people choosing to go to university and a subsequent weakening of higher education.

Richard Patient is a student at Southampton University.

COLLECTING

Potty about lids

WHEN men gave up wigs early in the 19th century, two-colour decorated pot lids were produced for the grease they used as hair cream.

The first lids were produced by four Staffordshire potters, mostly by F & R Pratt. Those early lids depicting bears playing, made for men's Macassar hair oil, were the work of Pratt's top engraver, Jesse Austin, who soon tried out four-colour transfer printing under glaze. To make it easier to lay on the transfer, Pratt produced convex lids and, around 1845, decorated lids appeared on everything from fish paste to face cream.

A series of scenes came from the Great Exhibition, the New York and the Paris Exhibitions. If these particular lids are rare and undamaged they fetch £200 plus at auction, as do some of the popular Shakespearean scenes.

There is also a series on Royal residences (I saw Sandringham fetch £200 at auction lately), battles (about £80), portraits of the Duke of Wellington (£170) and Harriet Beecher Stowe (£1,100). A number of lids with bears were made and they fetch about £50. "Prices are irrational," Tim Odell, of Christie's, says. "It is often to do with whether a lid has a gilt border. A lid might cost more on a stall in the Portobello Road than at auction."

"Pot lid collectors are fanatical. Something rare can make £1,000 at auction. 'The Picnic' is very rare, but I don't know if it has been made. Yet 'I See You My Boy', which shows a boy scaling from a sleeping tramp, fetched £40."

Toothpaste producers and food companies, such as Lazenby and Crosse & Blackwell, soon saw the publicity value of good packaging for their cosmetics and fish paste, and asked Pratt to do lids with views of shrimpers at Pegwell Bay and Margate, and a picture of the young Queen Victoria's head on some cherry toothpaste.

Early lids can be spotted by their flat tops and small crizzling (a fine network of cracks). Later, larger-crazed ones have poorer colours. The black and white examples (some with pink or green), which were produced until the Thirties, are less

in demand today and are always cheaper. Sometimes they can be found for less than £5.

Pot lids are often overpriced on market stalls, and if they are in frames you cannot see if they are damaged or of poor colour. Bargains can be found at the country-wide bottle and lid fairs. One dealer says that if a lid is cracked and not rare, it should not cost you more than £10. A good lid, worth £200, is worth £50 with a chipped rim.

"Pot lids have risen steadily in value over 20 years," Angus Gull, of Phillips, says. "More men than women collect them. Price depends on rarity and condition. If it has its base - and that is well shaped - that can increase its value a lot."

Sheila Hutchison

A sale of a private collection of pot lids will be held on Wednesday at Phillips, 10 Salem Road, London W2 4DL, starting at noon. Viewing: Tues, 9am-5pm, and on day of sale, from 9-11am.



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WALKING

Only there for the beer?

Thousands of walkers a year continue to claim their reward of a free half of bitter at the end of the gruelling Pennine Way. Ronald Faux reports

The legions of agonized legs and blistered feet that stumble into the Border Hotel, Kirk Yetholm, in Scotland have cost Alfred Wainwright, a testicular octogenarian, a bar bill of more than £10,000. The author of *The Pennine Way Companion* included a "very special note" for bona fide Pennine wayfarers completing the walk in a single journey. They could, he wrote, order a pint of beer and "charge it to Wainwright". It was a gesture that has cost him dear over the past 20 years. As popularity of Britain's first long distance footpath increased and sales of the *Companion* approached 120,000, the number demanding their reward grew prodigiously. Later editions reduced the offer to half a pint.

Although the Pennine Way now ranks as just one among a host of national trails, the footpath along the backbone of Britain keeps its reputation as the ultimate in gruelling, bog-ridden walks. Devon Russell is landlord of the Border Hotel, the traditional finishing point where Mr Wainwright's largesse is dispensed. "When he made that offer I doubt he could have imagined how many people would take it up. All I do is drop him a note to say that funds are a bit low. He always pays in advance with a cheque for £250 or £500. All I need from the walker is a copy of the *Companion*, which I stamp and then pull the half pint."

"One chap was a bit aggrieved because he had an old edition which offered a full pint. There was another young student who warned me there might be a problem. He'd drunk his half pint before I opened his book to stamp it and discovered it was borrowed from Sheffield public library."

The Countryside Commission estimates that about 5,000 people attempt the 270-mile route each year. Forty per cent probably drop out within the first three days. Some start at Kirk Yetholm and head for Edale in Derbyshire, but most prefer to have the sunlight and prevailing wind behind them; and Mr Wainwright did not extend his generosity to south-bound wayfarers.

The youngest conquistador to reach the Border Hotel was 10 and was rewarded with orange juice; the oldest in his mid-70s. "I had a 75-year-old in a fortnight ago. There seem to be many more elderly and retired people taking up long distance walking," Mr Russell says. He has no ambition to do the walk himself, he confesses, although he loves the countryside around Kirk Yetholm and the Cheviots, and no walker ever made a more dramatic entry to the village than he did, at the age of 10.

"It was during the war and me and a mate from North Shields ran away from home. We knew people here so we got the bus to Wooler and then walked over the Cheviot where the Pennine Way now goes but which at that time was an Army training ground. We found a big cache of abandoned ammunition and we decorated ourselves like soldiers. We walked into Kirk Yetholm swathed in machine gun rounds and belts with live hand grenades hanging from them. The bobby saw us and walked the other way. I don't blame him. I've loved the place ever since."

Mr Wainwright describes the walk as a clarion challenge, and from behind his beer pumps Mr Russell sees many challengers stumble in who have never before attempted a long distance walk and, he suspects, will never attempt another.

"Quite honestly, I don't think you get too many really dedicated walkers, people who are out every weekend for the pleasure of walking, doing the Pennine Way. It is mainly people who have had it in mind as an objective, a personal Everest, something to accomplish."

Athletes have run the 270 miles in two days. Riders on mountain bikes usually take eight days and walkers anything from two to three weeks on average, depending on fitness and how much weight they are carrying. Many walkers collect sections, linking them together over the years. The slowest recorded completion was by Bill Gallon, who took a leisurely 20 years and three months to finish the walk he started in the summer of 1969. Only one man is known to have arrived at Kirk



Reaping the rewards: Ivan Rogers, Herbert Bennett and Paul Robinson outside the Border Hotel at Kirk Yetholm

Yetholm from Edale, and the next day set off back to Edale. One enthusiast recently completed his tenth crossing and wrote in Mr Russell's log that he had clocked up 2,020 miles walking the footpath.

The book is a cryptic record of misery, sore feet and exhaustion. "Too tired to write and my feet hurt," moaned one youth. "For sale one pair size 12 walking boots. Owner knackered."

"Left my wife in Malham and my brain in Edale". "I started so I'll finish but I never know why," and "Veni, Vidi, Vici," wrote one Oxford undergraduate. "My feet have changed shape," complained another walker. And "Sod Wainwright," wrote a hobbler from Newcastle.

The number of Pennine wayfarers has fallen in recent years, probably because of the number of long distance alter-

natives and publicity that the path is under stress from over-use. Certainly large stretches have been reduced to a quagmire, and research is under way to find the best methods of repairing the damage. A bus service, Trans-Pennine Transport, which served walkers and ferried their rucksacks, was abandoned this year because fewer were attempting the Way.

Chris Sainty, secretary of the Pennine Way Council, a voluntary body that advises on the pathway and keeps an accommodation register, has lost count of the number of crossings he has made. "I know I have had five full pints and four half pints on Mr Wainwright. The slight problem is that his route is now taken as gospel, although it does not always follow the line that was originally negotiated." Not to worry, there

have been at least 24 other books guiding walkers by the dust jacket along the right path.

When they have breasted the rise beneath Staerough Hill along a lane bright with hawthorn and gorse and have covered the last 400 yards to the pub door, they can talk of little else. Terry McNamara and Steve Roberts, pipe fitters from Hertfordshire, had nothing to say about fitting pipes but plenty to describe their second crossing.

"It's addictive. Two years ago we said we'd never do it again, and here we are," Steve Morris, a policeman from Baldock and third member of the party, set out weighing 17½ stone but lost at least one of them among the peat bogs and heather.

"The mistake I made was to bring everything but the kitchen sink. My pack weighed more than 55lb. When I took it off my back I felt I could fly. In fact I was sick over a wall."

Mr Wainwright has not repeated the offer of a free drink in any of his 50 other walking guides. The dozen of bogtrotting whom *The Times* once described as "a man of glibulous northern humour who would probably describe walking as a pedestrian occupation", devotes his royalties to two animal charities. One of them has a bank balance of more than £300,000. He can afford a few well-earned half pints.

OUTINGS

RUTLAND AGRICULTURAL SHOW AND CANCER RELIEF FAIR: One of the oldest agricultural shows in the country combines with the charity fair for a traditional Bank Holiday event. Main ring events include polo, show-jumping and other equestrian events in separate rings. Also clay-pigeon shooting, competitions, cattle, rabbits, goats and other farmyard animals, a children's corner and giant tombola. Rutland-on-the Hill, Oakham, Leicestershire. Tomorrow, Mon, 8.30am to late pm.

TATTON COUNTRY CRAFTS FESTIVAL: 100 craftsmen demonstrating range of crafts including thatching, bee-keeping and lace-making. Conservation and rare breeds exhibitions, kites, furniture and other craft workshops for adults, spinning workshops for children plus puppet shows, vendors of arts and crafts, gymnastic displays. Full refreshments and licensed bar. Tatton Park, Knutsford, Cheshire. Today, tomorrow, Mon, 10am-6pm. Adult £2.50, child £1.

NEC MODEL SHOW: Many exhibitors, competitions and events both indoors and out, including a sailing regatta, submarine demonstrations, car racing, flying and professional model-making. Record-breaking attempts and championships. Full refreshments. National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham. Today, tomorrow, Mon, 11am-7pm. Adult £3, child £1.50.

DONKEY RACING: With the Hertfordshire Donkey Racing Club, first race at 2pm and six further races, including the Knobworth Cup (a two-furlong open scratch steeplechase). Tote facilities. House, gardens, also open from noon, children's playground from 11am. Knobworth, Hertfordshire. Mon from 12 noon. Park and racing: adult/child £2. House and gardens: adult £3.50, child £3.

FESTIVAL OF ENGLISH WINE: Wines to buy and taste provided by the Weald and Downlands Vineyards Association plus local specialist produce, including cheeses and smoked fish. Maze, grotto, rare breeds of wild fowl and other permanent attractions open as usual. Leeds Castle, Maidstone, Kent. Today, tomorrow, Mon. Adult £3.70, child £2.20. Family ticket: two adults plus up to four children £11. Admission to castle extra.

BANK HOLIDAY RECORD BREAKERS SPECTACULAR: Leading stunt men and women, in aid of ITV Telethon appeal, trying to shatter European and world records. Variety of stunts including car-rolling, stunt-driving, fire-breaking and pile-driving. Also helicopter war-game demonstrations, side shows and stalls, rock bands and other entertainments. Milton Keynes Bowl, Milton Keynes, Hertfordshire. Mon, noon-6pm. Adult £4, child £2.50, car park free.

STRATHCLYDE PARK WEEKEND: A horse and pony show today and tomorrow from 9am, powerboat racing on the loch tomorrow from 11am. Also, tomorrow, a Samaritan fund-raising fair with karate, fire brigade and dog obedience displays, a balloon race, army rifle range, stalls, tombola, bands and majorettes and live Radio Clyde road show.

PORTHMADOG TRANSPORT GALA: Vintage and classic cars, bikes, transport and commercial vehicles, steam and diesel locomotives plus a continuous steam service on the railway are included in the admission price. Light refreshments. West Highland Railway, Porthmadog, Gwynedd. Today, noon-6pm, tomorrow, Mon, 9am-6pm. Adult £1.75, child £1.25.

ARCHERY TOURNAMENT OF THE ANCIENT SCOTTON SILVER ARROW: Anniversary of the founding of the Society of Archers - the oldest body of archers in the UK, founded in Scotton in 1573. Playing Fields, Easingwold Comprehensive School, Easingwold, North Yorkshire. Today from 10am. Spectators free.

SURREY COUNTY SHOW: The largest one-day agricultural show in England with main ring events, bands, displays, two show-jumping competitions, classes in cattle, sheep, goats, horses, an exhibition of pigs, a children's corner and 300 trade stands. A mass balloon release and other entertainments for the Telethon appeal. Refreshments, licensed bars. Stoke Park, Guildford, Surrey. Mon, 8.30am-6pm. Adult £5, child 5-18 £2.50, under-fives free.

AIR FETE 1990: The largest air display staged by any air arm outside the Soviet Union, with 130 aircraft - 80 flying - on show each day. RAF Mildenhall, Mildenhall, Suffolk. Tomorrow, Mon. Car park open 7.30am, gates from 8am. Flying from 11am-5pm. Admission £10 per car plus all occupants, pedestrians - adults £2, child 5-15 £1, under-5s free.

NORTH SOMERSET SHOW: Family day with ring entertainments, show-jumping, animals, tractor-pulling and other rural displays. Ashton Court Estate, Long Ashton, Bristol, Avon. Mon, 8am-5pm. Adult £3, child £1.50.

FESTIVAL OF LETTERS: Authors and poets at a variety of readings and discussions, music and exhibitions at the Hay-on-Wye festival organized by *The Sunday Times*. Today: Frank Muir, Jan Morris, Germaine Greer; Tomorrow: Arthur Miller, Fay Weldon, Richard Holmes; Monday: John Pilger and Li Lu, student leader. Transman Square. Continues to June 4. Booking office 0497 821299.

Judy Froshaug

MOTORING CHALLENGE

Tortures of the Silk Road

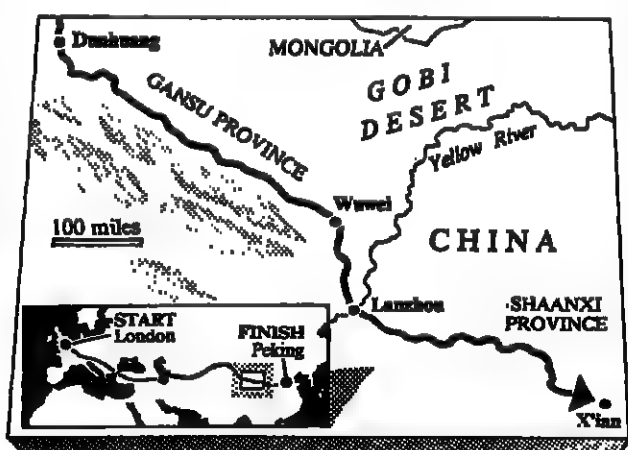
Xian was the start of the Silk Road for the merchants of 2,000 years ago as they transported their exotic wares to the markets of Europe. For the London to Peking Motoring Challenge it has been the beginning of the end; we are now only a few hundred miles from Peking. The drivers arrived at the five-star Golden Flower Hotel on Wednesday evening fit to kill. You might have heard of the Chinese water torture, but not the Chinese motor torture.

Victims are made to leave their resting place at first light, then travel by tight police convoy at an average speed of 35mph, and at the end of the day they queue to refuel. The first car is not allowed to leave the petrol station until the last is ready, some two hours later.

In Gansu Province delicate negotiations had resulted in refuelled cars leaving for their hotel in groups of seven, but now we were in Shaanxi, where the police seemed to have degrees in sadism. At the head of the disgruntled line of challengers waiting to leave were the Baldwin brothers of City Link, driving their mobile home. Exasperated beyond reason, they hired a taxi, told the driver to lead them to the hotel and about 30 vehicles stormed through the city to their destination, leaving Police Chief Tang's lower jaw gaping.

English food was on the menu for the first time in six weeks and we ordered as though the hangman would greet us in the morning, but some made a serious miscalculation. Two weeks on a Chinese diet including, we were reliably informed, goat, camel and snake, had caused severe weight-loss, and we were full after a few mouthfuls. Still, it was good to taste steak and kidney pie again.

The London to Peking convoy reaches Xi'an and the beginning of the end of its journey, Graham Rock reports



that we left at 10am and, in the face of rebellion, organizers Voyages Jules Verne pulled the fat out of the fire. We would spend an extra night in the haven of the Golden Flower Hotel, and the remainder of the itinerary would be rearranged to enable us to arrive as planned in Peking on Tuesday.

Much of the frustration of motoring through China, particularly in the more heavily populated east, comes from the driving conditions. Through towns and rural villages it is difficult to improve on the speed of the early caravans of a thousand camels that trundled along the identical road.

Cyclists and pedestrians believe they have an absolute priority and seem genuinely startled to find themselves a few inches from your radiator. The confidence of the police was not enhanced by a couple of accidents. The 1967 BMW motorbike knocked unconscious a cyclist who shot out from a side turning without warning, and the 1939 BSA with sidecar lost a brief tussle with a lorry and ended in a ditch. Neither Colin Barrington nor Graham Gleeson was injured, and after a hammer had repaired the

damage the combination was back on the road.

Sometimes the police can be as polite as diplomats. When the radiator in the 1948 Allard driven by Kathy Manley-Tucker blew up in the Gobi desert, and became detached from the convoy, a police car drove back 80 miles to collect them and accompany them to their destination.

We cannot record all we see. Official stops for photography are rare, so we shoot on the move and there are bound to be some unexpected surprises when the films are developed.

Crossing the Gobi was one of the highlights. The landscapes were permanently etched in the mind, although towards the end the desert deteriorated into a sea of scrub and sand. Memorable, too, was the sight of oil bubbling naturally on the surface.

Leaving the sand, we drove through the Gansu Corridor, bordered by mountains, and for some miles we ran parallel to the Great Wall of China. We tried to visit the beginning of this fabled edifice, but the gate was locked.

We moved through fields of barley and rape, and then crawled up and down a range of hills. Each face was perfectly sculpted into level terraces - not a square inch was wasted.

There are incidents which cameras have not recorded. At one petrol station the girl attendant saw a funnel sticking out of the back of the Jeep driven by Canadian Chuck Rathgeb, and enthusiastically pumped a couple of gallons into the spare compartment before she was gently shown the petrol cap.

At Wuwei a police car began to reverse and its warning siren blared out the unmistakable melody of "Happy Birthday To You".

We have become accustomed to living in a goldfish bowl. Video cameras record our progress and we no longer bother to turn on the television every evening to see ourselves as we arrive in each town.

The level of excitement has not diminished, though. Each day brings a fresh stimulation and in Lanzhou we saw what we were assured was the original flying horse, stepping on a swallow, representing power and speed. It would have been an ideal symbol for the Motoring Challenge, before we crossed the border into China.

We have crossed the Yellow River, so named because of its colour, and later took a boat ride on its muddy waters; sewage brown would be a more accurate description nowadays.

Nothing in China has matched our first sight of the Terracotta Army, discovered a few miles from Xi'an in 1974. It was ordered to be made by Emperor Qin Shi Huangdi, who ruled from 221BC. He united the country, standardized the currency and the written language, but also ordered the burning of scholarly books.

A tyrant of notable cruelty, Qin's army was fashioned to protect him in the afterlife. He must have known that the gods would seek to punish his barbarism, and if the terracotta soldiers proved half as efficient in that task as today's Shaanxi traffic police, his spirit will have escaped the retribution it deserved.

THE SUNDAY TIMES

Quality cars

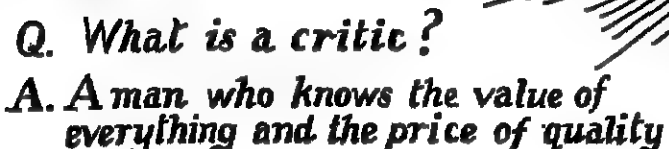


A SPECIAL EXTRA COLOUR MAGAZINE, ONLY WITH THE SUNDAY TIMES TOMORROW.

Jonathan Meades ponders the question of restaurant rip-offs and the relationship of price to quality

Indeed, in every price bracket there are bandits waiting to ambush for Le Manoir, yes, he has worked for Harvey's; but then what young

The second and, so far as this column goes, more pressing attraction of Woolley Grange is a chef possessed of what sounds like an impressive CV. Yes, he has worked for Le Manoir, yes, he has worked for Harvey's; but then what young



But the restaurant service is on the ball, none the less. Two will pay about \$85-plus for dinner, a sum that is now about par for cooking of this standard. Whether such a sum is reasonable is another matter. And how Woolley Grange compares in price/quality with Le Manoir is a third: the fact is that Woolley Grange is one of many, Le Manoir is on its own. Whether a nation with the lowest per capita expenditure on food in western Europe can ever appreciate that difference, which is a £100 difference, is moot.

Le Lion
★★★
106 Black Lion Lane, London
W6 (081-748 9070)
Extremely cramped bistro serving
generally well made dishes such as
pork with brandy and junipers and
chicken with a creamy venison
sauce. Inexpensive wines. £48.

★★★★
19 Hampstead Road, London
NW1 (071-387 9644)
Pleasant little French bourgeois
lunchtime joint that offers well
made dishes at very reasonable
prices: fish soup with rouille, beef
stew, rack of lamb, strawberry
foie gras. The décor is simple, the
wines are cheap. £12.

For those who cannot wait for these wines to arrive and mature, I recently tried a few. The highest street wine was from the '87 Chateau de '89 Bancherena, a Cote de Lignon. L'ayon Saint Aubert de Luignac was a wine with a sweet, rich marzipan style (Majestic Wine Warehouses, £3.59). If nothing but Sauternes will do, the best value half-bottle I have seen is the moreish '87 Bastor-Lamontagne from the Cote de Lignon (halfway between Sauternes and peachy-pineapple quality). At the next quality level is the rich, waxy-flowered '85 Chateau de '85 Chateau de Duburca (Waitrose, £3.95). The still is the '87 Chateau Guiteronde du Haye Sannieres from Peter Dominio (Waitrose, £7.95), which has a glorious peach scent and rich, peachy-dewy palate. Equally good is the '83 Chateau Filbot Sauternes from Davisons (£9.50 a half-bottle), which has a peachy, buttery colour and a rich, buttery-flowered palate. The '86 Rinsac is a peachy Sauternes, but the oddbins' £17.99 price tag, with its big, bold waxy scent and apricot-like relate

14 per cent alcohol — this is left to weekends. Sweet wines are perfect with packed puddings, and a prandial glass works well on its own. The French like to drink their finest sweet wine, Sauternes, with expensive delicacies such as *foie gras* or *foie volaille*. Other European countries serve sweet wines as aperitifs, whatever the weather.

Sweet white wines are made everywhere in the world, but I think France still produces the best. The basic ingredient in the

● **1986 Volney, Laboureaux, Selsam, £3.95**
Selsam originally stocked the 1983 vintage of this wine but the 1986, with its fragrant, smoky scent and glorious, rich, gamey, liquorice-like palate, is as good.

● **1988 Collety, Pinot Grigio, Salsam, £3.75**
I mentioned last week, Italian Pinot Gris or Grigios are not in the same league

pleasant, zesty, marzipan-like whites make a good summer quaffer.

● **1988 Rulinger, Auslese Trocken from Gundersloh-Usinger in the Rheinhessen, mentioned in last week's column, can be obtained from Walter Siegel, 50 Batten's Park Road, London SW11. Its delicious, rich, peachy orange and multi-layered palate made it an easy first to my Pinot.**

A girl and three men in a Beat

Peter Ackroyd on the woman who survived a lost generation

A memoir of the "Beat" generation, *Off The Road* begins with a quotation from Dante: the fact that Carolyn Cassady chooses the first lines of *Inferno* suggests the nature, or at least the destination, of the "road" ahead of her. The narrative opens with her first sight of Neal Cassady in 1947, while she was studying at the University of Denver, and it ends with that restless and driven man's ashes being mingled with those of Jack Kerouac. It was not, in any sense, a happy journey. The road, in the end, led nowhere but to pain and unhappiness.

For those who do not know, or cannot now remember, Cassady, Kerouac and Ginsberg established what became known as the "Beat" generation of writers: the first two in particular were wanderers, escapists, observers, drifters, disappointed men. The movement, if such it was, really sprang into prominence when the US Customs seized Allen Ginsberg's *Howl* in 1957. That other testament for an apparently lost generation, Kerouac's *On The Road*, was published in the same year.

Carolyn Cassady hardly seems a likely partner for the trio — although indeed she married one, and had a love affair with Kerouac. In her own account (which seems a genuine one) she emerges as a respectable American girl, innocent, even at times ingenuous, but certainly not a hard-drinking, drug-dazed wanderer on the model of her errant husband. In fact it is this disparity between herself and Neal Cassady which comprises a large part of the interest, and the drama, of this book. It is an intensely readable account of a woman who slowly begins to penetrate the wry, affectionate, and almost charismatic figure of her husband to find the disturbed human being underneath. It is clear from the letters she quotes that he was an instinctive and skilful writer whose talents

were largely squandered; but as a man he was selfish, dishonest, and, in the end, quite clearly mad. The fact that he was both charming and disarming makes for a portrayal whose complexity is amply justified by its obvious faithfulness.

Yet in those days, before the rights of women had been firmly established, Carolyn Cassady was largely a victim. She was the one who had to preserve their children when her husband went on his binges or continued an assortment of extramarital affairs. She was in every sense left behind when Cassady, Kerouac and Ginsberg made their own turbulent way. The point is that they were really only interested in each other, and the women were merely conveniences en route.

OFF THE ROAD
Twenty Years With Cassady, Kerouac and Ginsberg
By Carolyn Cassady
Black Spring Press, £16.95

There is an interesting study to be made of the spouses or lovers of writers — in many cases they are literally the preservers of the writer's life and imagination (and of course, after death, of reputation). They are the invisible companions without whom none of the work would have been possible. And when, as on this occasion, the normally unheard partner finds a voice, the results can be startling. The perspective which Carolyn Cassady provides on the "Beat" generation may in itself not be particularly novel or surprising, but there are some intimate portraits here of those whose lives cannot be said fully to live up to the myths which have since been created out of them. In particular Kerouac emerges as a shy, private, almost prudish man, who spent most of his time with his mother, and whose later years were marked by nothing so much as miserliness and ingratitude.

Yet the end is to be found in the beginning, and even at the very start of their lives what strange and unfulfilled dreamers Kerouac and Cassady seemed to be — working on the railways or in parking lots, their books unwritten or, if written,

rejected. There was a desperation about them which emerges as much in the strange and sometimes fatal couplings of Neal Cassady's love life as in their somewhat sentimental interest in Buddhism and the occult. They may have been the predecessors of the hippies, as everyone suggests, yet with this difference — they believed in personal achievement, even, perhaps especially, when they found it

difficult or impossible to attain; "they just scattered their energies fruitlessly", as Carolyn Cassady reports.

And yet it was not entirely tragic: there was also a great deal of humour and a certain amount of plain silliness; they acted up, and acted around, and there is a sense in which the real secret of their lives lay in the fact that they tried unsuccessfully to live up to some

literary ideal of what the life of a writer ought to be like. Of course the life of a writer is never "like" anything. In many cases it can hardly be said to exist. That is why he or she is a writer in the first place.

Then, after years of waiting, and trying, and disappointment, the success came: *Howl* made Ginsberg famous, and this was swiftly followed by Kerouac's *On The Road*,

with its semi-fictional account of his friendship with Cassady under the name of Dean Moriarty. It was, paradoxically, at this moment that Cassady was arrested on a drugs charge and consigned to San Quentin; effectively his life was over. It all ended so sadly — drugs eventually destroyed Cassady at the age of 43, and drink killed off Kerouac. They seemed in their own ways to be actively seeking for death, or

mindlessness, as if the only thing left in sober reality was pain and guilt. In the end it was only Carolyn Cassady who came through, who grew stronger as a result of the experiences. It was the men, after all, who were weak and vacillating and self-destructive. The woman survived, and *Off The Road* is a much a testament to her own strength as it is a memoir of a lost male generation.

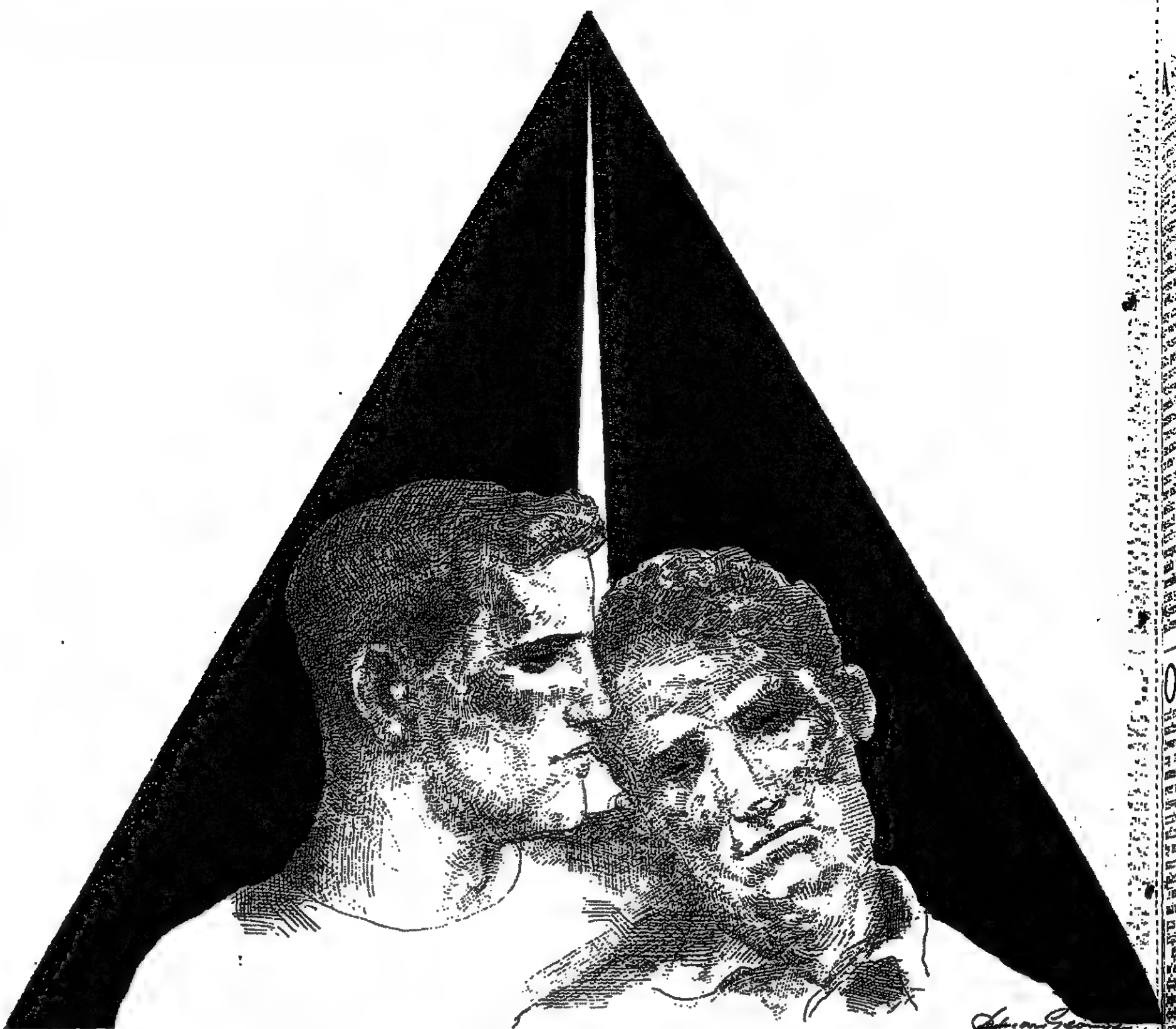


Illustration by George

The modern ear, attuned to the miracles of Shakespeare and Jane Austen, can find the characters of Greek literature (Homer apart) noticeably wooden, mere cardboard cut-outs parroting their concerns for "wisdom", "prudence", "courage", and "moderation". Housman's famous parody

And, O my son, be, on the one hand good,
And do not, on the other hand, be bad

gets it just about right. The main purpose of the papers of this 1987 Oxford colloquium is squarely to face this problem: to what extent are the characters of Greek literature individualized, given those unique traits of personality to which we, reader and audience, have privileged access, and to what extent are they mechanical ciphers?

Gill begins by showing with great sensitivity how effectively stock and personal characteristics — I am tempted to say public and private — are combined in powerful but enigmatic figures such as Achilles, Ajax, and Medea, who countenance devastating public loss at considerable personal price for often

Telling it like it was

Peter Jones

CHARACTERIZATION AND INDIVIDUALITY IN GREEK LITERATURE
Edited by C.B.R. Pelling
Oxford, £30

complex reasons. Halliwell, after arguing that Homeric heroes do have a concept of a separate "self", shows that the orator Isocrates' famous encomium of Evagoras was composed with one eye shut and the other firmly fixed on an orators' traditional check-list of proper "ethical dispositions".

Working the same scam, Russell demonstrates that a brilliant speech-writer like Lysias could avoid the cliché-trap and, through realism and good humour, turn an unsympathetic ratiocator of a client into a warm-hearted and appealing rogue. Pelling compares how Plutarch's *Lives* and Strachey's *Eminent Victorians* characterize the young. He finds that the ancient tendency to look out for stock characteristics leaves them notably quick-free.

The discussions of Greek tragedy and comedy deal with complex contemporary problems of persona, reality, and fantasy. Easterling and Goldhill worry that people on the tragic stage are "constructs" and not "real", and that, when they fight, they do not really kill each other (would it improve matters if they did?), and how difficult it is to draw conclusions. But we have a text in front of us, which unless the author wrote the words by accident does actually represent his intentions (sharp intake of breath at whiff of "intentionalist fallacy"), which contains an argument, and which is susceptible to reasoned historical analysis. Everything we know about the Greek stage suggests that dramatists wanted, within their conventions, to represent reality, and I can see nothing wrong with the proposition that the Greeks, like us, entered the theatre to suspend disbelief, treat the figures on stage as real people, and make judgements about them on the strength of what they did and said, just like real (and real) life. Suggestiveness is the mark of a fine writer: he wants us to argue about motive, however fruitlessly. The fact that scholars cannot solve the problem is neither here nor there.

Taplin on the character of Agamemnon in the *Iliad* (a rat), and Coventry on the sympathy that Plato shows to the respondents in his dialogues, are soundly text- and context-based; and the star of the show is Griffin's merry romp through Euripides' *Hippolytus*. The youthful Hippolytus is here seen indulging in that kinkiest of all sexual perversions, chastity. Taking Joseph and Potiphar's wife as his paradigm, Griffin gives a most stimulating account of how Euripides so constructed the plot as to make the great scenes — the older woman failing to seduce the young man, and then denouncing him for rape before her husband — impossible. Phaedra in Euripides' version is herself chaste, and ashamed of her passion for Hippolytus: she is dead when Theseus reads her false accusation. Griffin argues that one of Euripides' intentions (*that* word again) was to generate a more complex psychological situation.

This is a splendid collection of papers, but there is one central issue in the debate which is infrequently aired in them, and that is the language that characters in Greek dramas use. Yet *le style, c'est l'homme même*. How about a colloquium on that topic next?

French without tears

FOR CHILDREN

Brian Alderson

MAGI PICTURE DICTIONARY
French and English
Edited by René Le Bel et al.
With various illustrations
Magi Publications, £7.95

COMMENT s'arrangera-t-elle, la tante de mon jardinier? For the gardener is now no longer to be found, and his aunt's pen has been consigned to the dustbin of history ("Austrologos, on écrit à la plume"). From now on she must write with a stylus.

But there are compensations. Seldom before can hopeful young francophiles have been introduced to so many words and concepts in such jolly fashion.

There are 3,336 of these words all divided up into boxes, 20 or so to a page, and in each box there is an English term, in alphabetical sequence, with the French equivalent and a funny little picture, guaranteed by the publisher to be non-sexist and non-racist. (Occasionally the system has to be modified: *gouverner*, for instance, is clearly beyond the competence of even the most adept cartoonist, so our lexicographer has had to retreat into English and French verbal definitions.)

The earnest editors have tried to apply scientific principles in selecting the words for inclusion. These, we are told, come partly from a "word frequency analysis of English usage", and partly from "thematic clustering" — and although there are some inexplicable odd-

ities they do sometimes add some extra spice — just look at *la jardinière*.

There also seems to be no clear concept of how the book should fit in with more formal grammatical activity. The simple but tiresome business of gender, for example, is flunked from time to time (*les animaux* and *l'eau* are not much help), and although the equivalence between the illustrated main French and English words is made clear, the youthful explorer may find other bits of the text mystifying. "En avril ne le découvre pas d'un fil" is not greatly clarified by the one word "April", and no guide is given anywhere to *découvrir*. But these are small blemishes in a book that can be messed about with for hours sans larmes.



Q is for quelle jolie fille: how to learn French without tears

Carol Ann Duffy writes gossip rather than poems, but this is not necessarily a bad thing, granted that any poem is some way of freezing speech so that the freezing doesn't show too much and the speech remains real and becomes memorable. At her best, Duffy achieves something interesting in this direction:

Love holds words to itself, repeats them till they're smooth, sit silent on the tongue like a small stone you sucked once, for some reason, on a beach...

No accident, I think, that such lines define the process that inspires them. This poet is intelligent, and self-aware, enjoys observing her mind at work, and is amused and dismayed by her own body and the bodies of others. The work in her third collection, *The Other Country*, has a consistent, lively seriousness which would make it

Frozen speech and poe

remarkable at any time, and degree of technical accomplishment especially unusual just now. Here are poems which take us to the "other country" — the place important to us in memory, in fantasy, and imagination. What is admirable about Duffy is that she celebrates such places without sentimentalizing them, and with the last drop of meaning from each visit.

Peter Ackroyd is well-known as novelist and a biographer, but he began as a poet and there is a sense in which his novels and biographies read like the games of a poet. The verse collected in his book *The Divisions of Poetry* (about £4.50) is very curious and private, species of talking to oneself.

Land of the rising yawn

CRIME

Barry Fantoni

A HAIKU FOR HANAE
By James Melville
Headline, £2.99

SARATOGA BESTIARY
By Stephen Dobyns
Mysterious Press, £3.99

TOXIC SHOCK
By Sara Paretsky
Penguin, £3.99

Practically all crime fiction falls quite neatly into two distinct camps: books in which the crime dominates, and the characters, including the detective, are merely used as the props to provide the clues; and those that place the detective and his lifestyle centre stage, letting the plot more or less take care of itself. Generally, the more adventurous authors write about people and not events, which is as true for crime as well as for mainstream fiction. As Raymond Chandler once said: "If you want to solve a puzzle, do a crossword." One of the many advantages of an author adding flesh to the bones of his or her detective creation is that he or she might reach an audience beyond the often limited market of crime novels. This may lead to increased sales, and at the same time give a boost to the bank balance, and more importantly, the imagination.

Since the raw material of almost all whodunits consists of little more than a corpse, a group of suspects and a detective, crime writers have a tough job. One escape route is to make the private investigator as interesting as possible and pick a colourful background for them to work against. In the best books, dick and location merge into a satisfying whole. Sadly, A Haiku for Hanae is not one of them. James Melville clearly loves Japan and knows his subject. But he cannot resist letting us share his recondite knowledge. His Inspector Otani seldom moves without regretting the loss of the *enishi*, talking about a *kamashi-san* or nudging into a *nabe*. Instead of adding to the flow of the story, Melville's scholarship acts like a row of sleeping policemen. The plot itself is a dull affair about murdered *gaijin*, made more implausible by a lot of supernatural nonsense involving "fire foxes" possessing humans and turning them into

demons. The story's only mystery at least the one that grabbed me was the description of a *kamashi* — predominantly a warm, gaudy colour. "Warm, gaudy, gaudy?" Try as I might, I can't think what cold burgundy looks like. Saratoga Bestiary is the latest of a series of stories by Stephen Dobyns has set in Saratoga, a hard-boiled variety, except on hard-boiled scale he is a minute job with a goosy inside. He drinks diet Coke, owns a hotel, his sense of humour includes a like, "Charlie took out his wallet, was pretty light. Each time he opened it he expected mother to out." A bit like the jokes.

Charlie has a girlfriend who works as a dental hygienist and make his private eye even more interesting, the author lurches with a cold. To toughen him up,



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BOOKS

What Peter Pan likes to read

Alison Lurie's book about what she describes as "subversive children's literature" starts from an interesting connection of ideas. There is a difference between the books children really like and the books that adults fust on them with various improving intentions. (It is not as sharp a distinction as she makes out; children are not all that unsuggestible, not the prisoners of a rigid system of infantile tastes.) The books children really prefer, she maintains, are those that mock or abuse adults.

Her case is made in two preliminary chapters. In the first children are viewed as a kind of sensualist, if outwardly conforming, and inwardly not the nice little girls of Mrs. Molesworth and Mrs. Ewing, but rebels like Tom Sawyer and the less terroristic Jo of *Little Women*, the "brave, critical, impatient" Alice, the incorrigible Toad of *The Wind in the Willows*. The implied criticism is both intellectual — adults are silly — and moral — they are selfish and sometimes cruel. The genial moral squalor of Toad is hardly in place in this argument, except as an indirect comment on adult ideas about honesty, being sensible and not being off more than you can chew. There is a lot of difference between rejecting a scheme of moral ideas and, like

Toad, taking a moral holiday. Perfectly respectable, monogamous men from time to time exchange obscene jokes and sing dirty songs.

In her second chapter on folktales she calls attention to their tendency to support the disadvantaged against the powers that be. Jack uses cunning and violence to overcome the monstrous parent-figure of the Giant. Cinderella, more of Toad's party, is obsessed with clothes and going to dances. But from that point on, with 14 more chapters to go, the theme announced in the book's title unravels, only to be adverted to parenthetically now and then. What follows is a set of unrelated studies of writing for children, the by-products of Alison Lurie's job teaching folklore and children's literature at Cornell. One identifies fairy princesses (Nicole Warren in *Tender is the Night*, Jane Eyre, the heroine of Jean Stafford's *Boston Adventure*), and fairy godmothers or wise women (Mrs Wilcox in *Howard's End*, Mrs Ramsay in *To the Lighthouse*) in fiction for adults. Another surveys the quasi-factual books about gnomes, elves, hobbits and so forth that have fed a recent cultural appetite, particu-

larly among American students ("Frodo lives"). A final chapter sums up in a commonsensical fashion, noting the universality and antiquity of children's lore — rhymes, stories, word-games and so on — seeing that lore as an oral culture transmitted by women, who tend to dominate the lives of children.

However, taken for what it really is, a collection of independent essays on a slightly random selection of writers for children, *Don't Tell the Grown-Ups* is interesting about an intrinsically agreeable topic. A gentle feminist strain in the whole compilation expresses itself in the fact that many of the chapters are about women: Kate Greenaway, Lucy Clifford (wife of the gifted philosopher-mathematician G.K. Clifford), Beatrix Potter, E. Nesbit, Frances Hodgson Burnett. But men are by no means excluded; there are Ford Madox Ford, J.M. Barrie, A.A. Milne, T.H. White, Tolkien, Richard Adams and William Mayne. All of these are British, even Frances Hodgson Burnett, who was born in Manchester, but it must be admitted that she went to America at the age of 15 and became, to all intents and purposes, as her name makes

clear, an American. Alison Lurie remarks: "Why so much great children's literature should have been written in England is still a matter for discussion. Perhaps the phenomenon can be traced back to the Romantic movement and the value put on childhood by writers like Blake and Wordsworth, which suggested to men and women of genius that writing for and about children was a serious and worthy occupation. Even today, this tradition continues, and British authors do not make the sort of apology for their work ('It's only a children's book, of course') that is often heard elsewhere."

Perhaps it is because most English people, like J.M. Barrie and Peter Pan, never really grew up. For someone professionally concerned with children's literature, Alison Lurie has very little to say about other critical writing in her field. Only Bruno Bettelheim's *Uses of Enchantment* is cited; no mention of Margery Fisher's *Who's Who*, of Humphrey Carpenter's *Secret Gardens*, of J.R. Townsend's *Written for Children*. And she misses some important pieces of primary material, above all Saki's two great anti-adult (or anti-aunt) stories: "The Lumber Room" and "The Story-Teller". These were not written for children, but they have no more loyal audience.



Victorian approach to the fallen woman: police raid a concealed bordello in Glasgow, 1871

Victorian pros and cons

Nicola Murphy

THE MAGDALENES
By Linda Mahood
Routledge, £25

Prostitution reached epidemic proportions as a topic of conversation during the 19th century. Victorians had realized that syphilis was not the result of the intergalactic union of Venus and Mars, as medievalists believed. They also realized that immorality was not secured by living on an island, as James IV insisted. In fact the connection between VD and the sowing of every available wild oat had finally been made. Prostitutes were a problem, and what to do with them was a problem. Eighteenth-century sentences had gone out of fashion: whipping, branding, or being dunked in a lake was out; punishment of the soul came in.

Through detailed examination of Scottish prostitution, Canadian Linda Mahood traces changing views on the prostitute as criminal, as sentimental victim of seduction, and as threatening social deviant. She explores the changing methods — from prison and poorhouses, via Lock Hospital and female penitentiary, to Magdalene's home and police intervention — employed by the middle-class men of the medical profession, the state, and the philanthropic organizations to control the phenomenon.

Ms Mahood focuses on the social and political implications of these actions for working-class women as a group, and addresses in particular the debate on vocation and agency. Did prostitutes do what they did because they were merely oppressed victims, seduced Mary Magdalenes? Or did the fact that

they worked without the aid of pimps in brothels run by powerful women rather imply otherwise? To mid-century Victorian men the idea that any woman had control of her own destiny was an alien one; and the idea that she would actually choose to make a living by having sex with men like themselves was repulsive. It could not be true: they had to be victims.

By the latter half of the century, however, a new generation of philanthropists and experts had recognized the part played by choice; as a result the erstwhile victims began to be defined as social deviants. Reform programmes, originally designed to save women from 18th-century criminal justice procedures, now resulted in a massive expansion of interventionist systems. Nets were widened to catch these working-class women with their "dangerous sexuality". In the eyes of the philanthropists, any woman who challenged middle-class gender roles in her dress, her behaviour, and her work in the public sphere was a potential prostitute. And if her eyebrows joined together, and her thumbs bent backwards, so much the better. Just as burning at the stake was deemed the best way

to cure witches, so these social deviants were "reformed" by police repression and asylums. The "dangerous" prostitute was given a chance to conform to bourgeois codes of conduct, and a chance to serve her superiors, specifically as a domestic servant, and generally as a useful contributing member of the proletariat. Some took the opportunity. Some didn't.

The majority of this book operates on a socio-political level. Embedded within the academic analysis, however, are some fascinating sexual curiosities, among them a Miss Inglis with bad teeth but "remarkable" specialities, and a Miss Alexander with a "very agreeable squint". Both are described in "Rangers Imperial List of Ladies of Pleasure in Edinburgh". These spic titbits are regrettably rare, for the whole book is wrapped in a jargon more impenetrable than brown paper. Linda Mahood smoothes her subject in endless repetition of the central propositions; for those readers who are not obliged to prepare a seminar, this slim volume of 166 pages is liable to be pretty indigestible.

A book about the Magdalenes could have broadened public perceptions of women and of prostitution, have changed views of philanthropy and reform — but this one won't. *The Magdalenes* is a thesis in hard covers. It does not have the feel of a book designed to sell in a bookshop; and it won't.

Once upon a time it was the chemistry labs that held the monopoly in curious smells and strange fizzy-type noises at academic institutions. Recently, however, the prerogative for staging minor explosions has been extended to English faculties all over the country, as does come to blows and tottering scholars indignantly shake their gowns at the radical critical methods trumpeted by bright young upstarts. Deconstruction, along with other so-called "post-structuralist" methods of literary analysis, is still at large, and the collision of opposing forces puts the study and teaching of English Literature in crisis.

Although any book that attempts to make sense of so chaotic a situation is welcome, there is too much of the Casaubon and not enough of the Ladislav about this careful study by the Professor of English at Warwick University. Bergonzi's evaluation is historical rather than polemical. Reluctant to reveal his own colours, he prefers to consider the ill-effects of the so-called "rainbow coalition" of post-structuralist theories rather than defend "the venerable category of humanism", which he implicitly supports.

Revealed as a would-be historian in the pleasingly anti-academic "Anecdotal Introduction", he has

Pure poetry of Eng. lit.

Michael Wright

EXPLODING ENGLISH
Criticism, Theory, Culture
By Bernard Bergonzi
Oxford, £25

published fiction and poetry of his own, and laments the dearth of such activities among academics today, for whom the generation of theory has ostensibly replaced "creative" writing (David Lodge is a grand and quoted exception). Elsewhere in the introduction, Bergonzi admits that he is "by nature a sprinter rather than a long-distance runner", and a lack of stamina is indeed evident in the series of short bursts that makes up the book, perhaps an ironic metaphor for those lamentable fractures in English Studies.

Before assessing the pioneering critical approaches of F.R. Leavis at Cambridge and of C.S. Lewis at Oxford, Bergonzi steps back to identify the "separate but early intertwined" elements that have traditionally comprised the "English Synthesis" (i.e. English as an

academic subject), and then goes on to claim that growing tensions within it have led to the dramatic onslaught of *la nouvelle critique* from France. The new critical theories are seen merely as symptoms, rather than the cause, of the impending disaster. One might have thought that *la nouvelle critique* was sufficiently exciting in its radical possibilities for open-minded people to want to learn more about it, but according to Bergonzi, "for as long as the 'English' synthesis was adequately functioning there was no need or place for theory". The word "adequately" squirms as I type it.

English Studies may now be strident on "a choppy and sometimes tempestuous sea", and universities may not indefinitely be "secure havens" for literary criticism, but this does not lessen the shock-value

of Bergonzi's proposed salvation. This would be to allow the theorists and culturalists to drag the novel and drama back to their caverns (which would henceforth be known as "Cultural Studies") and to trust in the lifeboat of Poetry, which with all its "ineffability" might henceforth be studied without the noisy intrusions of philistine post-structuralists. A split in English Studies may be inevitable, but it is surely not this one, which is reminiscent of dream-schemes that would start up perfect communities on the moon to escape an earth that had begun to spin off its axis. Not only would such a split fail to avert a potential explosion in "Cultural Studies", it is a misguided apprehension that poetry is more likely to survive as an academic subject in isolation. Poetry is no more immune to Derrida et al than the novel, even if the latter is presently drawing much of the fire of the theorists.

It is disappointing that Bergonzi has not discussed the external implications of the crisis in English Studies, its effect on the general public, and the alienation of the educated but non-specialist reader. But with a pat tag of about three bottles of whisky, his book is clearly targeted at academics (who may be disappointed) rather than the general public (who may drown).

Frozen speech and poetry with a chill

Robert Nye

THE OTHER COUNTRY
By Carol Ann Duffy
Anvil Press, £5.95

finger exercises in solipsism. What comes across is Ackroyd's feeling for language, and his sense of the mind that came up with *Hawkins*, so we may respect the white-hot elements that have traditionally comprised the "English Synthesis" (i.e. English as an

there are so many emotions to get through that I dream continually of slipping backwards while the day spins ahead of me like a kite although its string leads precisely nowhere

er's sincerity even if his detachment appals. Of course, Ackroyd may be joking. Some of the poems are post-modernist pastiche in which it would be hard to say where his heart is, or even if he has one. The better poems are sad in probably unintended ways, though this man is so clever you can never be sure. Valerie Gillies is a decent poet who deserves to be better known

outside her native Scotland. The work in *The Chatter's Tune* (Canongate, £7.95) extends the range of her previous lyrical pieces, providing longer meditations which explore myth, topography and history to good effect. I like the way in which these poems are rooted in the elemental world, and although Gillies seems to have difficulty in letting herself go, emotionally and intellectually, there is both intelligence and sensitivity in the way her poems are made. In common with Duffy and Ackroyd, she is driven by a passion to get the poem "right" however awkward the results may sound. In her more successful poems, of course, the craft and the truth are at one, but none of the verse in this

book is much below the level of that marriage.

Selected Poems of Vittorio Sereni (Anvil Press, £5.95) is the first substantial volume of English translations of the work of Sereni (1913-1983), widely regarded as the finest Italian poet of the generation after Montale. The early work is hermetic and peculiar, using a jerky line to embody difficult states of mind and feeling. The later stuff is more moving in that it broadens out to include a concern for other people, without any sacrifice of intensity. The translations by Marous Perryman and Peter Robinson seem faithful to the way in which Sereni works through fancy to create a nice fugue of insideness and outsidership. There is a good introduction and notes, as well as representative work from all periods of the poet's life. This is uncommonly good value for a paperback.

A three-way bet by the publisher on another racing certainty

Joseph Connolly

STRAIGHT
By Dick Francis
Michael Joseph, £7.99

The appearance of Dick Francis's 28th novel in a handsome, fairly pricey paperback edition only seven months after hardback publication might puzzle devotees who are used to scooping up the Pan mass market edition a full year on, but the new "C" format is a concession of things to come. The punter now has a choice of paying around £13 immediately, £8 some months on, or £4 the following Christmas.

Three bites for the publishers — a play only viable, of course, with top-flight, sure-fire institutions.

This is a wholly absorbing and elegantly written chronicle which unravels the chain of events following the accidental death of Greville Franklin, a gadget-obsessed dealer in semi-precious gemstones. His younger brother (a steeplechase jockey — but naturally — rather

more prosaically christened Derek) is the accident-prone narrator. He is on crutches throughout the book due to a racing injury, but nevertheless undergoes a mugging, a coshing and several roughings-up as well as surviving being shot at and a serious car crash. He is in quest of £1½ million-worth of diamonds apparently bought by his brother shortly before his death, and escorts us with style and graceful observation through a maze of puzzles and

dead ends. From the outset, he is as in the dark as we are, the tone being set by one of the most seductive opening paragraphs I have read in years: "I inherited my brother's life. Inherited his desk, his business, his gadgets, his enemies, his horses and his mistress. I inherited my brother's life, and it nearly killed me."

Francis fans will love this book: the racing background is there and though this ought to be an impossible contrivance by now, it is handled with effortless ease and so too are the gentle humour and the all-important pace. One detects class influence: Kingsley Amis (Derek never gets anyone on the phone first time), Raymond Chandler ("Fat chance" forms an entire paragraph) and more than a little of Ian Fleming. The seamless result is pure Dick Francis. You can put your shirt on this one — straight.

An enigma in black and white

Brian Morton

NATIVE SON



By Richard Wright
Picador, £6.99

Published in 1940, *Native Son* has ever since been a kind of sticking place for black American writers and critics. The black nationalist radicals of the 1960s, admiring the moral ferocity of Wright's tale of a young black murderer, believed that his nerve had failed and echoed the novelist's own fears that he was merely repeating white racist stereotypes, unrelieved by a more affirmatively upbeat conclusion. By contrast, James Baldwin deplored the fact that Wright's powerful example had left the black American novel bogged in "protest", unable to move out of an artistic ghetto.

Native Son is a curiously airless novel, and much out of shape. The real drama is over within 90 pages. The remainder sprawls hopelessly. However, the "problem" of *Native Son* lies less in the political and philosophical lecturing and attitudinizing that so much worried Wright's radical heirs, as in the dramatic opening chapter. Bigger Thomas, like Wright a black youth from the south translated to Chicago, is taken on by the Dalton family as a driver and odd-job man. He is condescendingly treated as an "equal" by his employer's daughter Mary and her Communist friends. Surprised by Mrs Dalton in Mary's bedroom, and in a panic born of Mississippi, he smothers the girl with a pillow. The murder is rendered so ambiguously as to resist any clear explanation, though it is clearly intended to recall Othello's killing of Desdemona, a perfect white icon of black violence. Mary is dead drunk and blind; it is unclear whether the act itself is accidental, a gesture of racial revenge or sexual envy, or a meaningless act *gratuit*.

That is the central problem of the novel. There is no single explanation of Bigger's act. The first "sociological" contrast between the rat-infested Thomas home and the Dalton house is too crude; the Marxist reasoning of Mary's friends and of Bigger's white lawyer Max take little account of the realities of the boy's life. Bigger's own summation — "I didn't want to kill, but what I killed for, I am" — is too philosophically pat and enigmatic.

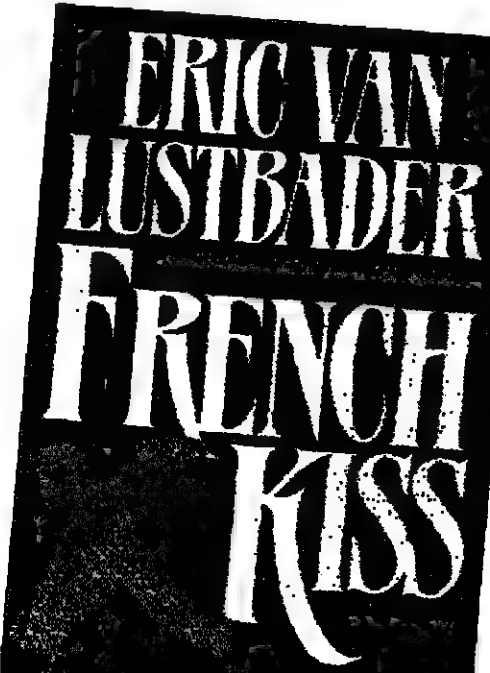
Richard Wright's interest in existentialism has been somewhat exaggerated and read out of context, as has his commitment to doctrinaire Marxism; both were in place long before he made formal

ties with either; his underrated first novel *Lawd Today* is an authentic existentialist text and a convincing portrayal of southern blacks in a northern city. However, at the end of the war, Wright emigrated to France, where he was greeted with typical Gallic condescension as a "natural" existential hero. He went on to write a book called *The Outsider* and, to cement the link, died in 1960, within a year of Albert Camus.

There was still too much of Uncle Tom in Bigger Thomas for the black nationalists, and too many rough artistic edges for Baldwin. What neither seemed to understand was how much *Native Son* was of its time. In his essay, Wright makes it clear that the boy was a "product of a diseased society, a dispossessed and disinherited man", and a composite of any number of disaffected biggers. In 1940, the only large terms available for understanding the movements of society in the mass were communism and fascism, both of them practically and morally redundant, inapplicable to America's most peculiar institution. Wright was casting about for a way of reconciling his acquired political optimism with his experience of a dispossessed and disinherited man, and he felt in looking back at that experience.

Native Son is one of the great American novels precisely because it is so difficult. It stands alongside Theodore Dreiser's *An American Tragedy* as a rare glimpse into the forces that propel a complex society. Without its problematic example, black masterpieces like Ralph Ellison's *Invisible Man* and Baldwin's own, equally courageous *Another Country* could not have been conceived.

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Warming to a global cause

Tonight's musical climax to the BBC's *One World* week comprises 64 acts from four continents, as Steve Turner reports

SHERIDAN MORLEY

This meant taking a film crew and recording equipment on a 45,000-mile journey around the

Today's two-hour television programme, eventually to be seen by an audience estimated at half a billion, will start with film of the journey to collect the music and



Three days after transmission, Virgin will have an album in the stores, the quickest turnaround in British record history. Singles are being considered of sections

"First and foremost, it's a television programme," says Andy Ward, "but we brought Rupert Hine in to ensure that it was recorded to the sort of standard required by CD.

Albums will extend the environmental message and all profits will be distributed to a range of charities chosen by the artists themselves."

● One World, One Voice will be screened by BBC2 at 8.20pm.

Albert Herring
Glyndebourne

The present revival is again full of charm and inventive detail. John Gunter's sets look as bright as they did five years ago: sepia photographs of Edwardian Eng-

Other members of the cast are also unreservedly excellent. Pauline Tinsley as Lady Billows

On another matter, Robin Holloway has pointed out to me an important error in my review of his *Clarissa*. The D minor interlude in Berg's opera comes after Wozzeck's death, not Marie's. My apologies.

AKIC WHITEHEAD, a 300-lb. artist making her first designs for dance, has dressed the 10 dancers in red or green, or both. They are first seen posed in what could almost be a circus ring, but as the lighting changes, so does the appearance of the space. It is further modified later by lowering, in turn, a vertically patterned backcloth, and a gauze with two chevrons painted on it.

Chevron, as it happens, is the title of the music which was specially written by Kevin Volans, although the ballet, confusingly, has a separate title, *Signature*. Neither of these names offers a

There is an impression of supportiveness as one dancer leans on another, or puts out a hand to help a colleague forward. At the beginning, too, comes a recapitulation of an enigmatic gesture from one of her recent works, a hand weaving sinuously round the dancer's own face.

With greater familiarity, clues like these may unlock the secret of *Signatures*. For now, it seems intriguing, interesting, pleasing, but somewhat puzzling too.

JOHN PERCTVAL



Wild Justice
Theatre Royal,
Stratford East

At first the mother, Jane, appears to be the one most stricken. Compulsively tidying away her dead boy's teddy bears, admitting and denying his death

So, too, is the cast of policeman, priest, crooks and colleagues. Philip Hedley's strong direction makes intelligent use of the revolve to keep the action unbroken. He also uses follow spots to give Frank's head a halo, identifying him as he finally sees himself, a spooked martyr to obsession.

JEREMY KINGSTON

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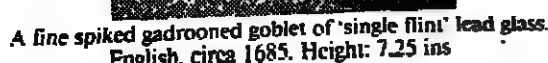
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Fall
Rose Theatre

A detached narrator, Fox, frees the sisters from expository duty and allows their talk an easy familiarity. Anthony Sergeant gives him such sardonic and feral presence that it is a pity he does not break in to the action.

The sisters are beautifully contrasted: Helen, subtly played by Abi Rayment, runs a hostel for drop-outs and feels responsible for everyone. The main object of her

The best part both of the play and the direction (by Robin Brockman), is the close observation of sibling interaction. Spitting quarrels dissolve into giggles; grown-up discussions degenerate into childish petulance.

This is also a play which, in its conversational way, airs big themes: birth and death; freedom and determinism. But Saunders does not preach or hector—merely stirs, gently, intelligently.

HARRY EYRES

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RECORDS

Early days

JAZZ

Clive Davis

The Harper Brothers: Remembrance - Live At The Village Vanguard (Verve 841723)
 Cannonball Adderley Quintet: Cannonball In Japan (Capitol CDP7-83560)
 Max Roach/Dizzy Gillespie: Max + Diz - Paris 1989 (two compact discs) (A&M CD404)
 Tommy Smith: Peeping Tom (Blue Note BLT-1002)
 Tommy Chase Band: Rebel Fire (Miles Records MRIL-002)

At music or entertainment? The debate about the future of American jazz seems to have been one-way traffic over the last decade. Almost everywhere you look, the view is the same: studios full of sophisticated conservatory graduates devoted to the notion that jazz must be approached with the solemnity associated with classical music. With one or two exceptions, their records have turned out to be responsible, ultra-sophisticated and, in the long run, extremely dull.

It would be nice to think that the Harper brothers - drummer Winard and trumpeter Philip - can escape that fate. Although their sleeve notes and magazine interviews have been full of the usual references to "the tradition", their performances have some of the gut-bucket excitement of the real thing.

These are still early days for their quintet. One of the striking aspects of *Remembrance* is that the strongest performances come on cover versions - Bobby Wellins' "CB" and Horace Silver's surging "Kiss Me Right" being the best of all.

Alto saxophonist Justin Robinson is still growing along the lines of Jackie McLean. Pianist Stephen Scott - another brilliant member of the Carter trio - looks more and more promising, though his piece "Keynote Doctrine" is full of the bad old scholastic tendencies.

The group will know that it has finally arrived when it comes up with original melodies as solid as "Work Song" or "Mercy, Mercy,"



Consistent soul-jazz formula: Cannonball and Adderley

Mercy", the two opening tunes on Cannonball Adderley's Tokyo concert. Recorded in August 1966, the album has previously only been available in Japan.

Adderley's soul-jazz formula was remarkably consistent, and tended to come across at its sharpest on live albums. Recorded for the umpteenth time, Bobby Timmons's gospel-flavoured "This Here" sounds close enough to the original live version on *The Cannonball Adderley Quintet* in San Francisco, recorded way back in 1959.

Consistency has not exactly been a hallmark of Dizzy Gillespie's recent live concerts: it is hard to play the role of trumpet virtuoso when you are in your seventies. The good news about *Max + Dizzy* is that Gillespie is in unusually sound form, especially as these are demanding duet performances which expose any cracked notes. Taped at Paris's Banlieues Bleues festival last March, the concert simply allows the two veterans to go about their business. The bad news is that the project is allowed to extend to more than 20 tracks, sprawling across two compact discs, with the dubious bonus of a 30-minute interview with the two men.

The argument over the true direction for jazz resurfaces on the

releases by Tommy Smith and Tommy Chase, two home-grown leaders who, apart from their Christian names, have absolutely nothing in common. Smith is by far the more fashionable of the two. Schooled at Berklee and recruited to the Gary Burton quintet at only 18, he is an impeccable tenor saxophonist of the austere Jan Garbarek stripe.

He is still, however, at the apprentice stage. *Step By Step*, his Blue Note debut last year, deserved attention mainly for the presence of big names such as John Scofield and Jack DeJohnette. *Peeping Tom* evokes a will-o'-the-wisp, ECM-like atmosphere, but the themes and the group playing lack the substance needed to engage the listener for more than minutes at a time.

Chase, on the other hand, specializes in uncomplicated riffs with no pretensions other than coaxing people on to the dance floor. Replacing the piano with the Hammond organ - played by Gary Baldwin - gives the band a hint of Jimmy Smith gospel, while Chase clatters along behind the drum kit. The whole recipe is brash, occasionally crude, with some wobbly rhythm work in places. Yet if I was forced to choose between the two, Chase's *Joie de vivre* would win my vote.

Subtle distinction

CLASSICAL

Paul Griffiths

Intabulation and Improvisation in the 14th Century: Ensemble Super Librum (Sonicair JB 128836)
Arts Nova (New Abon NA 021)
Agricola: Chansons (Ferrara Ensemble) (Deutsche Harmonia Mundi/BMG GD 77038)

composition in medieval style. The restraint and the fluidity are very appealing, and the record is dominated by a beautifully simple performance of the Machaut ballade "De toutes fleurs", given with the singer on the lowest and slowest line, so that her limpidity is not compromised. Also included is a group of Italian songs, a four-minute mass, and a Part-like medieval-modern Amen with which the musicians sign off.

By contrast PAN are, though

not wilfully, sensuous. The palette is richer, with three singers and an ensemble based on lute and bowed strings; the musicianship is altogether sweeter, and the music comes mostly from later in the 14th century, setting Machaut (a very beguiling performance of "Quant Theseus") in the context of diverse subsequent extensions into rhythmic complexity, smoothness of line and harmony.

Alexander Agricola belongs a century later, and his songs have a Renaissance vividness and clarity (in terms, for instance, of harmony, and of imitation between parts) coupled with some inheritance from the long lines of Ockeghem. Crawford Young's comparison with Bosch seems rather strained, since any bizarreness in Agricola's fabric is quickly sorted out, and since the main themes are the joys and pains of love. But this is a lively selection of songs and instrumental arrangements.

CLASSICAL UPDATE

Hindemith: *Weber Metamorphosen*, Mathis Symphony Bamberg SO/Rickenbacher (Virgin VC 7 91088-2)
 Positive, if not altogether polished, performances of two of Hindemith's most colourful scores, plus the overture to his opera *Neues von Tage*.

Schoenberg: *Five Orchestral Pieces*, Weber: *Six Orchestral Pieces*, Berg: *Lulu Suite*, Auger: *CBSO/Rattle* (EMI CDC 7 49857 2)
 A stunner. Rattle and the astonishing Birmingham orchestra make Schoenberg and Weber sound as ferociously dramatic as Berg, and Berg himself is intensified to the same degree.

Wagner: *Das Rheingold*, Solists, Bavarian RSO/Haitink (EMI CDC 7 49853 2) (two CDs)
 Fitfully marvelous. James Morris's Wotan is outstandingly authoritative, natural and beautiful; Theo Adam puts his all into a lusty Alberich; Haitink is spacious, and sometimes suddenly engaged.

A-Z GUIDE TO ROCK

Part 31 of David Sinclair's collectors' A-Z, a guide to the essential albums of the most enduring performers of rock. To qualify for inclusion in this series, an act

must have sustained a recording career of at least 10 years, and have mustered at least one decent album during that time. The entries are designed to be pasted

on to index cards and stored in a bin by 4in filing box, available from most good stationery shops, to form an instant guide to the hits and misses of rock history.

LED ZEPPELIN

An aloof Goliath among rock groups, Led Zeppelin replaced the fading hippie ideals of peace and love with darker shades of mysticism and rampant sexual braggadocio, becoming in the process reluctant harbingers of the Heavy Metal genre. The essence of their awesomely muscular formula was established on *Led Zeppelin* (1969) where a souped up version of Willie Dixon's divine slow blues "I Can't Quit You Baby" rube shoulders with the proto-thrash of "Communication Breakdown". On *Led Zeppelin II* (1969) the combination of Jimmy Page's pulverizing riffs, John Bonham's primal backbeat and Robert Plant's penile shriek is moulded to rough-hewn perfection on "Whole Lotta Love" and the notorious "The Lemon Song". The untitled fourth album (1971) houses the electric masterpieces "Stairway to Heaven", the group's most celebrated song, never released as a single, *Physical Graffiti* (1975) and *Presence* (1976) are also of special note in a recorded legacy of consistently outstanding excellence.

Slick: Mark King

NEXT WEEK: Bob Marley, Joni Mitchell

LEVEL 42

Revered among the shadowy fraternity of "serious" musicians for their technical expertise, and adored by a great mass of soft-core pop fans for their shopping mall soul melodies, the foundations of Level 42's success seem to be as unshakable as they are unlikely. From their beginnings as an instrumental jazz-rock band, they first gained access to the charts via the disco dance-floor, but the hyperactively thumb-thrashing bassist Mark King

had developed a slick line in vocal applied by the time *World Machine* (1985), with its "Something About You" and "Leaving Me Now", established them as a top flight presence in boutiques, restaurants and concert halls around the world. They followed this with the equally inescapable *Running in the Family* (1987), which produced further chart singles in "To Be With You Again", "Lessons in Love", and the title track. Always expertly performed and produced, Level 42's distinctive brand of commercial pop-funk is the kind of sweet you can eat between meals without denting your appetite.

BRIDGE

Per Olof Sundelin of Stockholm suffered mightily in the Omar Sharif Individual in Atlantic City two weeks ago. His partner of the moment, Peter Pender of Philadelphia, pulled the wrong card against the winner, Zia Mahmood, relegating "P.O." to third place instead of first. But life was not all pain and sorrow. Dealer East. East-West vulnerable.

♠ A 6 4 3
 ♥ J 8
 ♦ K J 8 4 3 2
 ♣ 10 9 8 7 5 4
 ♠ 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2
 ♥ A K Q J 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2
 ♦ A K Q J 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2
 ♣ A K Q J 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2

W N E S
 ♠ 4 4 10 20
 ♥ 4 4 10 20
 ♦ 4 4 10 20
 ♣ 4 4 10 20

Opening lead: 4♠
 Sundelin as South was allowed to settle in four spades when his opponents could have made a slam in diamonds. With K-9-x in opener's suit, West, playing 5-card majors, was happy to support this suit straight away, the huge diamond fit never coming to light. Even so, East should surely have forced the bidding to the five level.

At four spades Sundelin had an easy ride when West led a club and East elected to return the suit. Sundelin ruffed with the king of spades, continued with the queen, led the 10 to pick up West's jack, and made 12 tricks. Five of his losers went away on the clubs and another was ruffed with dummy's long trump.

The key to this hand was dummy's long trump, which could have been removed by a diamond return at the second trick, forcing a ruff.

Try making even ten tricks against the return of a diamond!

Sidney Lazard of New Orleans is a fine player who has won major championships during each of the past four decades. He came fourth in the tournament and would have been second, had he made his contract on this deal. Dealer North. Both vul.

♠ A 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2
 ♥ A K 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2
 ♦ A K 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2
 ♣ A K 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2
 ♠ A 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2
 ♥ A K 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2
 ♦ A K 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2
 ♣ A K 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2

W N E S
 ♠ 4 4 10 20
 ♥ 4 4 10 20
 ♦ 4 4 10 20
 ♣ 4 4 10 20

West led the ace of hearts and continued with the 9, East echoing with the 7-4. Lazard saw that two spade ruffs would give him game, as another spade would go on a club.

The danger was that East might overruff the dummy in spades, or West might overruff declarer as he tried to come to hand to lead spades.

Thus, South would twice have to enter his hand by ruffing hearts or clubs, and the crucial question was which. For his double of three diamonds, West was expected to hold length in the major suits.

In play Lazard cashed the black-suit winners and led a heart from dummy, ruffing low. East, however, discarded a spade on this trick, and now the contract could not be made. Lazard was able to ruff one spade in dummy, but on the next round East was poised to overruff.

Suppose that instead of ruffing a heart, South ruffs a club with the 8 of trumps. Then he ruffs a spade and leads another club from dummy, ruffing this time with the jack.

South's last spade is ruffed and dummy's remaining

trump, the 9, is led. If not covered, it is allowed to run. The contract is made when East has the A-10-2 or A-10-3 of trumps.

The contract fails if East has A-10-6, for he covers the 9 with the 10. South wins with the queen but is left with K-5-3 against East's A-6-4.

This line of play is far from clear cut. South might instead ruff the first club with a low trump, which fails here but works when West's singleton trump is the 2, and also when he has three clubs.

Is there a future for open individual events with big cash prizes? This one was sanctioned by the ACBL and run by respected officials. Betting was prohibited and only well-known bidding conventions allowed.

Anything that helps close the gulf between the top performers and a bridge public turned off by impenetrable bidding methods is welcome. But until someone finds a way to present bridge more effectively on television, sponsors will be hard to find.

To be worthwhile to casino managers, the cost of offering facilities for a bridge tournament must be recouped from extra receipts at the gaming tables.

Albert Dormer

CHESS

The traditional date given for the origin of chess is AD 500. I disagree with this. My research indicates that we must place it much earlier.

The modern game of chess, with the sweeping power of the queen and bishop and the ability to castle, became popular in the 1470s. By the end of the century, aided immeasurably by the domination of world communications exercised by the Spanish Empire (where the new form of chess found its origins), the new chess had virtually swept away the older slower Muslim variety. Nevertheless, even with the vast improvement in means of travel and the advent of printing, which was to take place in the post-Medieval world, there was still to be a gap of three centuries between the introduction of chess as we know it in the Renaissance and the arrival of the first master of the modern game, the Frenchman, Philidor, in the mid-18th century.

One overriding reason why AD 500 must be rejected for the "invention" of chess is that by the 8th and 9th centuries the Baghdad Caliphate could boast several players, whose relative strength in the Arabic form of the game, known as shatranj, was com-

parable to that of Philidor in the modern game. The Baghdad Caliphate saw the golden age of shatranj. It was recognizable chess, even though the powers of the queen and bishop were restricted in comparison with the modern game. Shatranj Grandmasters proliferated in the capital, and openings and endgame theory was widely publicized in manuscript form, some of which has survived to the present day. The origins of chess must considerably pre-date AD 500, for it is inconceivable that such enormous expertise and such a rich chess culture, as existed in Baghdad in the 8th century, could have been developed by then if chess had existed just 200 years previously. For this practical reason, one invariably underestimated or ignored by historians, we must search back to 300 BC for the roots of shatranj, the Muslim game, and ultimately modern chess.

Aristotle, at one time the tutor of Alexander the Great, mentions in his *Politics* a group of classical Greek games collectively known as Petteia. These were games of a battle type which demanded skill, logic and pure reason, not just the fortune associated with the throw of dice. They are also mentioned by Plato in *The*

Republic, where he compares Socrates's victims, who are finally cornered and made helpless by dialectic, to "Weak Petteia players, who are finally cornered and rendered unable to move, by stronger ones".

Around 330 BC, Alexander the Great invaded Persia and marched on towards Asia Minor and India. En route he founded Hellenic colonies in which the Greeks, assuming they were good students of Plato and Aristotle, would have played Petteia. Hellenic influence in these regions would have been considerable.

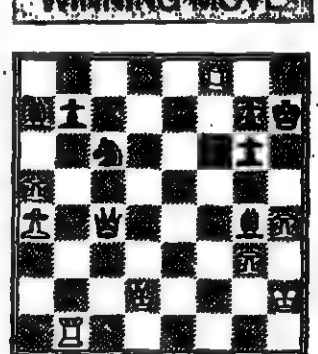
Chaturanga, a battle game using dice, was played in India at that time. Its Sanskrit name, meaning "four divisions", was also used for the Indian army, elephants, chariots, cavalry and infantry. "Chaturanga" as a word looks alien, but becomes more familiar if one compares "four" in Latin or Russian.

In India, along the invasion route of Alexander the Great, in the centuries after the establishment of Hellenic colonies, Chaturanga, the Indian war game of chance, met Petteia, the Greek game of reason. The effect of Petteia on Chaturanga was to eliminate the dice element and throw the players on their own resources of the mind. From this meeting, from this col-

lision of cultures, chess, Greek thought expressed in Indian language, was born.

Chess - An Illustrated History by Raymond Keene (Phaidon, £17.95) was published last week.

WINNING MOVE



White to play wins.

Send your answer on a postcard with your name and address to: The Times Winning Move Competition, The Times, 1, The Strand, London EC4A 3DF. The first three correct answers drawn off Thursday next week will win a Times chess set (worth £100). The winning move will be printed in The Times next Saturday.

Solution to yesterday's position: 1. ♔f1+ ♚g7 ♔f2 ♚f6 2. ♔g1 ♚f5 3. ♔g2 ♚f4 4. ♔g3 ♚f3 5. ♔g4 ♚f2 6. ♔g5 ♚f1 7. ♔g6 ♚f1 8. ♔g7 ♚f1 9. ♔g8 ♚f1 10. ♔g9 ♚f1 11. ♔g10 ♚f1 12. ♔g11 ♚f1 13. ♔g12 ♚f1 14. ♔g13 ♚f1 15. ♔g14 ♚f1 16. ♔g15 ♚f1 17. ♔g16 ♚f1 18. ♔g17 ♚f1 19. ♔g18 ♚f1 20. ♔g19 ♚f1 21. ♔g20 ♚f1 22. ♔g21 ♚f1 23. ♔g22 ♚f1 24. ♔g23 ♚f1 25. ♔g24 ♚f1 26. ♔g25 ♚f1 27. ♔g26 ♚f1 28. ♔g27 ♚f1 29. ♔g28 ♚f1 30. ♔g29 ♚f1 31. ♔g30 ♚f1 32. ♔g31 ♚f1 33. ♔g32 ♚f1 34. ♔g33 ♚f1 35. ♔g34 ♚f1 36. ♔g35 ♚f1 37. ♔g36 ♚f1 38. ♔g37 ♚f1 39. ♔g38 ♚f1 40. ♔g39 ♚f1 41. ♔g40 ♚f1 42. ♔g41 ♚f1 43. ♔g42 ♚f1 44. ♔g43 ♚f1 45. ♔g44 ♚f1 46. ♔g45 ♚f1 47. ♔g46 ♚f1 48. ♔g47 ♚f1 49. ♔g48 ♚f1 50. ♔g49 ♚f1 51. ♔g50 ♚f1 52. ♔g51 ♚f1 53. ♔g52 ♚f1 54. ♔g53 ♚f1 55. ♔g54 ♚f1 56. ♔g55 ♚f1 57. ♔g56 ♚f1 58. ♔g57 ♚f1 59. ♔g58 ♚f1 60. ♔g59 ♚f1 61. ♔g60 ♚f1 62. ♔g61 ♚f1 63. ♔g62 ♚f1 64. ♔g63 ♚f1 65. ♔g64 ♚f1 66. ♔g65 ♚f1 67. ♔g66 ♚f1 68. ♔g67 ♚f1 69. ♔g68 ♚f1 70. ♔g69 ♚f1 71. ♔g70 ♚f1 72. ♔g71 ♚f1 73. ♔g72 ♚f1 74. ♔g73 ♚f1 75. ♔g74 ♚f1 76. ♔g75 ♚f1 77. ♔g76 ♚f1 78. ♔g77 ♚f1 79. ♔g78 ♚f1 80. ♔g79 ♚f1 81. ♔g80 ♚f1 82. ♔g81 ♚f1 83. ♔g82 ♚f1 84. ♔g83 ♚f1 85. ♔g84 ♚f1 86. ♔g85 ♚f1 87. ♔g86 ♚f1 88. ♔g87 ♚f1 89. ♔g88 ♚f1 90. ♔g89 ♚f1 91. ♔g90 ♚f1 92. ♔g91 ♚f1 93. ♔g92 ♚f1 94. ♔g93 ♚f1 95. ♔g94 ♚f1 96. ♔g95 ♚f1 97. ♔g96 ♚f1 98. ♔g97 ♚f1 99. ♔g98 ♚f1 100. ♔g99 ♚f1 101. ♔g100 ♚f1 102. ♔g101 ♚f1 103. ♔g102 ♚f1 104. ♔g103 ♚f1 105. ♔g104 ♚f1 106. ♔g105 ♚f1 107. ♔g106 ♚f1 108. ♔g107 ♚f1 109. ♔g108 ♚f1 110. ♔g109 ♚f1 111. ♔g110 ♚f1 112. ♔g111 ♚f1 113. ♔g112 ♚f1 114. ♔g113 ♚f1 115. ♔g114 ♚f1 116. ♔g115 ♚f1 117. ♔g116 ♚f1 118. ♔g117 ♚f1 119. ♔g118 ♚f1 120. ♔g119 ♚f1 121. ♔g120 ♚f1 122. ♔g121 ♚f1 123. ♔g122 ♚f1 124. ♔g123 ♚f1 125. ♔g124 ♚f1 126. ♔g125 ♚f1 127. ♔g126 ♚f1 128. ♔g127 ♚f1 129. ♔g128 ♚f1 130. ♔g129 ♚f1 131. ♔g130 ♚f1 132. ♔g131 ♚f1 133. ♔g132 ♚f1 134. ♔g133 ♚f1 135. ♔g134 ♚f1 136. ♔g135 ♚f1 137. ♔g136 ♚f1 138. ♔g137 ♚f1 139. ♔g138 ♚f1 140. ♔g139 ♚f1 141. ♔g140 ♚f1 142. ♔g141 ♚f1 143. ♔g142 ♚f1 144. ♔g143 ♚f1 145. ♔g144 ♚f1 146. ♔g145 ♚f1 147. ♔g146 ♚f1 148. ♔g147 ♚f1 149. ♔g148 ♚f1 150. ♔g149 ♚f1 151. ♔g150 ♚f1 152. ♔g151 ♚f1 153. ♔g152 ♚f1 154. ♔g153 ♚f1 155. ♔g154 ♚f1 156. ♔g155 ♚f1 157. ♔g156 ♚f1 158. ♔g157 ♚f1 159. ♔g158 ♚f1 160. ♔g159 ♚f1 161. ♔g160 ♚f1 162. ♔g161 ♚f1 163. ♔g162 ♚f1 164. ♔g163 ♚f1 165. ♔g164 ♚f1 166. ♔g165 ♚f1 167. ♔g166 ♚f1 168. ♔g167 ♚f1 169. ♔g168 ♚f1 170. ♔g169 ♚f1 171. ♔g170 ♚f1 172. ♔g171 ♚f1 173. ♔g172 ♚f1 174. ♔g173 ♚f1 175. ♔g174 ♚f1 176. ♔g175 ♚f1 177. ♔g176 ♚f1 178. ♔g177 ♚f1 179. ♔g178 ♚f1 180. ♔g179 ♚f1 181. ♔g180 ♚f1 182. ♔g181 ♚f1 183. ♔g182 ♚f1 184. ♔g183 ♚f1 185. ♔g184 ♚f1 186. ♔g185 ♚f1 187. ♔g186 ♚f1 188. ♔g187 ♚f1 189. ♔g188 ♚f1 190. ♔g189 ♚f1 191. ♔g190 ♚f1 192. ♔g191 ♚f1 193. ♔g192 ♚f1 194. ♔g193 ♚f1 195. ♔g194 ♚f1 196. ♔g195 ♚f1 197. ♔g196 ♚f1 198. ♔g197 ♚f1 199. ♔g198 ♚f1 200. ♔g199 ♚f1 201. ♔g200 ♚f1 202. ♔g201 ♚f1 203. ♔g202 ♚f1 204. ♔g203 ♚f1 205. ♔g204 ♚f1 206. ♔g205 ♚f1 207. ♔g206 ♚f1 208. ♔g207 ♚f1 209. ♔g208 ♚f1 210. ♔g209 ♚f1 211. ♔g210 ♚f1 212. ♔g211 ♚f1 213. ♔g212 ♚f1 214. ♔g213 ♚f1 215. ♔g214 ♚f1 216. ♔g215 ♚f1 217. ♔g216 ♚f1 218. ♔g217 ♚f1 219. ♔g218 ♚f1 220. ♔g219 ♚f1 221. ♔g220 ♚f1 222. ♔g221 ♚f1 223. ♔g222 ♚f1 224. ♔g223 ♚f1 225. ♔g224 ♚f1 226. ♔g225 ♚f1 227. ♔g226 ♚f1 228. ♔g227 ♚f1 229. ♔g228 ♚f1 230. ♔g229 ♚f1 231. ♔g230 ♚f1 232. ♔g231 ♚f1 233. ♔g232 ♚f1 234. ♔g233 ♚f1 235. ♔g234 ♚f1 236. ♔g235 ♚f1 237. ♔g236 ♚f1 238. ♔g237 ♚f1 239. ♔g238 ♚f1 240. ♔g239 ♚f1 241. ♔g240 ♚f1 242. ♔g241 ♚f1 243. ♔g242 ♚f1 244. ♔g243 ♚f1 245. ♔g244 ♚f1 246. ♔g245 ♚f1 247. ♔g246 ♚f1 248. ♔g247 ♚f1 249. ♔g248 ♚f1 250. ♔g249 ♚f1 251. ♔g250 ♚f1 252. ♔g251 ♚f1 253. ♔g252 ♚f1 254. ♔g253 ♚f1 255. ♔g254 ♚f1 256. ♔g255 ♚f1 257. ♔g256 ♚f1 258. ♔g257 ♚f1 259. ♔g258 ♚f1 260. ♔g259 ♚f1 261. ♔g260 ♚f1 262. ♔g261 ♚f1 263. ♔g262 ♚f1 264. ♔g263 ♚f1 265. ♔g264 ♚f1 266. ♔g265 ♚f1 267. ♔g266 ♚f1 268. ♔g267 ♚f1 269. ♔g268 ♚f1 270. ♔g269 ♚f1 271. ♔g270 ♚f1 272. ♔g271 ♚f1 273. ♔g272 ♚f1 274. ♔g273 ♚f1 275. ♔g274 ♚f1 276. ♔g275 ♚f1 277. ♔g276 ♚f1 278. ♔g277 ♚f1 279. ♔g278 ♚f1 280. ♔g279 ♚f1 281. ♔g280 ♚f1 282. ♔g281 ♚f1 283. ♔g282 ♚f1 284. ♔g283 ♚f1 285. ♔g284 ♚f1 286. ♔g285 ♚f1 287. ♔g286 ♚f1 288. ♔g287 ♚f1 289. ♔g288 ♚f1 290. ♔g289 ♚f1 291. ♔g290 ♚f1 292. ♔g291 ♚f1 293. ♔g292 ♚f1 294. ♔g293 ♚f1 295. ♔g294 ♚f1 296. ♔g295 ♚f1 297. ♔g296 ♚f1 298. ♔g297 ♚f1 299. ♔g298 ♚f1 300. ♔g299 ♚f1 301. ♔g300 ♚f1 302. ♔g301 ♚f1 303. ♔g302 ♚f1 304. ♔g303 ♚f1 305. ♔g304 ♚f1 306. ♔g305 ♚f1 307. ♔g306 ♚f1 308. ♔g307 ♚f1 309. ♔g308 ♚f1 310. ♔g309 ♚f1 311. ♔g310 ♚f1 312. ♔g311 ♚f1 313. ♔g312 ♚f1 314. ♔g313 ♚f1 315. ♔g314 ♚f1 316. ♔g315 ♚f1 317. ♔g316 ♚f1 318. ♔g317 ♚f1 319. ♔g318 ♚f1 320. ♔g319 ♚f1 321. ♔g320 ♚f1 322. ♔g321 ♚f1 323. ♔g322 ♚f1 324. ♔g323 ♚f1 325. ♔g324 ♚f1 326. ♔g325 ♚f1 327. ♔g326 ♚f1 328. ♔g327 ♚f1 329. ♔g328 ♚f1 330. ♔

سكراي الراجل

GARDENING

GARDEN NEWS

THERE had been concern that the important collection of gardening tools, ornaments and artefacts which belonged to the late Lord McAlpine of West Green, Hampshire, would go out of the country when they were auctioned 10 days ago.

Many such items have already gone abroad, to institutions and private collectors. Partly because of the current appeal of garden goods, and partly thanks to the British proceeding it, the sale was well attended and prices were several times higher than predicted.

But a significant selection of the McAlpine collection will now stay in England on display at the Museum of Garden History in Lambeth, south London. The museum acquired many of the items over which there was most disquiet: the 17th century lead-glazed ceramic watering pot, two beehive puffers (catalogued as dust puffers, but possibly smoke puffers), and elaborate 19th century ceramic tallies (plant labels).

Some of these items are already on exhibition at the museum (situated near Lambeth Bridge in St Mary-at-Lambeth, next door to the Archbishop's Palace).

The new acquisitions, which include 19th century grape bottles, bell glasses and handlights (an early type of cloche), will later be displayed with the museum's existing collection.

The number of visitors to the museum at Lambeth is rapidly multiplying, putting pressure on the museum to achieve its current £3 million appeal, which will institute new galleries and establish a central garden information centre.

Other collections are being built up at the National Trust's Clumber Park in Nottinghamshire (0909 476592) and the Northern Horticultural Society's garden at Harlow Carr, Harrogate (0423 565418). There are also plans to set up the Capel Manor Trust Fund to create a national horticultural heritage centre in the 25 acres of garden around the Capel Manor Horticultural College and Environmental Centre in Enfield (0992 763849).

Francesca Greenoak reviews the horticultural charms of the displays at this year's Chelsea Flower Show

A good show, naturally

HOWEVER well it is done, a preview can never quite capture the special spirit of the Chelsea Flower Show. Even the most detailed advance descriptions of the garden landscapes and the special plants cannot prepare you for the show.

As Chelsea week begins, finishing touches are put to displays and everything is geared towards the royal visit in the afternoon and the gala event later in the evening. Many visitors are attracted by the glamour of the event rather than the gardening, but this year's show, more than any other, was for people who love gardens; the keynotes were good plans and good design.

The outdoor gardens were much nicer than usual, with less formal planting. They came in all styles, offering some interesting ideas on plant uses and associations. John Chambers's wild flower garden, with its delicious meadow and borders on both sides of the garden wall, had a charming fluted terracotta pot of ragged robin, an unusual and pretty choice. This garden was the one that everyone was talking about, with its judicious use of wild flower forms such as a wine-dark foxglove and a mixture of heart's ease and brilliant golden corn marigold used as bedding plants.

The Crabtree and Evelyn Tudor garden by Jane Fearnley-Whittingstall made an attractive model for a small town garden, with imaginative use of plants in a floral centrepiece with informal borders. The inner display was warm with scent and colour: box spirals, with a low hedge of wall germander (*Teucrium chamaedrys*) edging a bed of the old-fashioned red min-

ature rose, Pompon de Bourgoigne, the scented creeping camomile *Trencauge* filling in the spaces between the flagstones. This little camomile is awful to cope with in quantity because of weeding difficulties, but is a joy when used to carpet a small area where it will be trodden on to release its rich apple scent.

There was a wider and more imaginative use of scented plants than usual; I spotted the lovely briar rose *Lord Penzance* in a mixed hedge, and a low hedge of the compact lavender *Hidcote* showed how stupendous its fresh blue-green foliage can look even before it flowers. Another garden had sweet-scented *Madonna* and *Regale* lilies making an inner lining within a box hedge.

Some of the highlights were striking but not reproducible — the seaside effect in Merrist Wood's Mariner's Garden, for example, with waves swishing against the shore.

The gardens were less gimmicky than usual, and many of the features could be fun for a moderately ambitious garden owner. There were two bright striped tents, like medieval pavilions, in the "Cabages and Kings" garden by

Ryll Nowell and Millbrook Landscapes. Andrew Grace of Much Hadham, Hertfordshire, included bronze bird, animal and mythical garden statues, and bright Chinese oiled paper umbrellas with wooden struts. Everywhere, pavilions, pergolas and arches and arbours, elaborately planted, offered a wide choice of design, and materials of high standard. Highfields' archway had cordon pears and apples trained up it, grown with houseleek which was already flowering.

Exhibitors devoted to the so-called "hard landscaping" — paths, walls, temples and large ornaments — acknowledged the presence of flowers, which spilled over stone, brick or paved paths and courtyards.

Such was the attention to detail that there was moss between the paving stones in front of the Marston and Langinger conservatory, while mock classical urns and pots brimmed with flowers.

The Pepper Harrow display offered some less obvious ideas for pots and hanging baskets, with simple plantings of unusual plants such as the pink daisy, or the hazy flowered *Gypsophila*. The



white walls and paving of Charles Lyte's garden with the Alexandra Palace Garden Centre made a passable attempt at recreating a Mediterranean garden under a bright English sun, with gaudy bougainvillea, *Fejoa* (*Acca sellowiana*), pink trailing *Balcon* geraniums and a dramatic pot with a large purple cordeline, a fountain of spiky leaves, underplanted with soft brown-purple gazanias. One of the most unusual ideas was Stapely Water Gardens' use of large decorative oriental pots, filled with water to make a summer display of water

plants such as lobelia *hystericum* and water lilies. In the marquee, the Hilliers of Winchester's long canal, flanked with fastigiate hornbeam and roses and with a background planting of shrubs, was a triumph, demonstrating how one can create a sense of space with clever use of perspective. Paradise Centre nursery can always be relied on for some interesting and unusual plants. On this occasion it showed a handsome Japanese campanula called *Campanula takesimana*, which has soft, shining foliage and large,

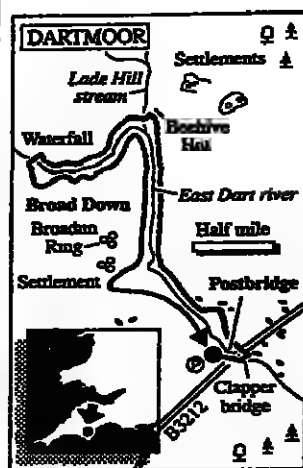
drooping crimson-brown bells. I was assured that it is hardy and grows well in shady places. Richard Cawthorne of Swanley, Kent, had an eye-catching pale lemon-coloured viola with tiny purple veins and spoon-shaped glossy leaves, called *Viola altaica*. These plants had been grown from seed collected by Cawthorne in the Altai mountains of the Soviet Union. Violas are rather underused as a garden plant: three plants grown together soon make a sweetly scented mound of flowers and foliage which lasts throughout the summer.

Easily overlooked, but worth seeking out, was a small display by Glebe Cottage Plants of Umberleigh, north Devon. Among their many uncommon plants were a pretty pale pink form of the Speedwell *Veronica spicata*, and a beautiful and unusual bush of *Gillenia trifoliata*.

It was probably because of the spring warmth that this year's Chelsea looked so unusually natural. If the nurseries and garden centres exhibiting at the show are retailing plants of similar quality, we can look forward to putting some of the ideas from Chelsea into practice.

Mary Welsh

WALK



Postbridge, Devon, 4½-5 miles

POSTBRIDGE lies at the heart of Dartmoor. The scattered dwellings that make up the village stand on either side of the B3212 Moretonhampstead to Two Bridges road.

Park in the large car park 100 yards south-west of Postbridge. Leave by the gate at the south-west corner and walk along a wide track. This comes close to the river at first, but later moves away.

To the left, away from the track, stand stones, remnants of Bronze Age hut circles. Continue along the track, fording small streams and circumventing boggy areas. Stride over the open moorland of Broad Down. Here the ground slopes down from the path to the East Dart. Keep parallel with the river as it turns sharply to the left. Walk into the moor until you reach a small waterfall.

Cross the East Dart on the convenient boulders of the fall, and then return along the other bank — downstream. The narrow, indistinct rocky path soon improves, leading downhill, crossing a promontory overlooking the dog-leg bend of the river.

Step across the Lade Hill stream, a tributary of the main river. Walk over to a well preserved beehive hut, possibly dating from medieval times. Walk on downstream, following one of the narrow paths rising above the river.

Pass through two gates by the boundary fence of a dwelling, then follow the signposts and waymarks to Postbridge.

WEEKEND TIPS

- Hang a pheromone trap for codling moths in apple trees.
- Plant out French beans, runner beans, pumpkins and sweetcorn sown inside; sow French beans and runner beans in situ.
- Look out for red spider mite in greenhouse. Keep up watering and humidity to discourage them.
- Earth up potato shoots.
- Divide or prune water lilies which are getting too big for small ponds.

GARDENS TO VISIT

BERKSHIRE: Folly Farm Gardens, Sulhamstead (7m SW Reading). Lutyens, Jekyll design with white garden, sunken rose garden. Teas. Adult £1, child free. Mon, 2-6pm.

GWENT: Lower House Farm, Nant-y-derry (7m SE of Abergavenny; from B4598 Usk-Abergavenny Rd, turn off at Chain Bridge). All-year-round garden with conservation pond, herb bed. Teas. Adult £1, child 20p. Sun, Mon, 2-6pm.

HAMPSHIRE: Vine Cottage, Ewshot, Farnham (NW of Farnham on B3013). One-acre North-facing garden; moisture loving plants on acid soil; herbaceous beds, shrubbery. Adult 60p, child free. Wed, 2-6pm.

DEVON: Andrew's Corner, Beilstone (3m E of Okehampton, signed to Beilstone). Well planted garden, 1,000ft above sea level, on Dartmoor overlooking Taw valley.

Adult 50p, child 25p. Mon, 2-3-6pm. Teas.

BEDFORDSHIRE: Luton Hoo. Walk with gardener around the National Collection of saxifrage. NCCPG; small charge for non-members. Tues, 7pm.

COUNTY DURHAM: Barnham Park (6m S Barnard Castle, turn S off A66 at Greta Bridge). Woodland walks, trees, rock garden. Plant sales. Teas. Adult £1, child 50p. Sun, 1-6pm.

HOMES & GARDENS

Continued on next page

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SHOPPING

Al fresco eating is in the bag

With summertime and holidays on the horizon, Nicole Swengley shops around for fashionable and practical picnicware

A repeat of last year's scorching summer is likely to persuade most people to indulge in picnics and barbecues. Eating outdoors is made much easier these days, thanks to the lightweight accessories in the shops. With plenty of inspiration from all quarters, I have picked a range of picnicware which is practical and stylish.

● New this season are fashionable Prima flasks by Thermos. They come in contrasting colours (scarlet, blue and green) and in capacities of 0.25, 0.50, 0.75 and 1 litre, costing £3.29, £3.75, £4.30 and £4.79 respectively. Another addition to the Thermos range is a Breton-striped flask in red or blue, costing £4.25 for the 0.5 litre size and £5.49 for a 1 litre version. There is also a 16 litre cool bag, featuring Marilyn Monroe, at £7.50. Thermos picnicware is available from branches of Sainsbury's, Co-op, Morrisons and Sainsbury's. Debenhams also stock the 1 litre Breton flask.

● Canine's kitchenware collection offers several picnic gadgets, including a carton pourer/sealer (£1.15) for piercing packs of juice and then resealing them. A set of three stoppers for unfinished bottles of wine costs £1.85. A pack containing a pourer/sealer, bottle-stopper, can-opener, corkscrew and drink stirrer costs £3.39 from Asda and Safeway. For local stockists, telephone 0753 686767.

● House of Fraser stores stock Plastico sunshine-yellow acrylic tumblers in packs of eight (99p) and 12 matching, disposable teaspoons (49p). Bendy straws (25p for 40) are fun for children, while an all-in-one pack (£3.99) of four place settings — plastic plates, cutlery, tumblers and paper napkins — could be handy for family outings.

● A wool picnic rug by Morgan & Bates has a nylon waterproof backing. It measures 30in by 60in and folds into a neat package with carrying straps. Available in red, gold and blue checks, it costs £44.95 from the General Trading Company, 144 Sloane Street, London SW1 (071-730 0411), which also offers a novel Perspex 1.5 litre pineapple jug (£7.95) and tumbler (£2.10).

● Curver has introduced a range of leisureware. A drawstring cool bag (£3.25) keeps two standard-size cans of soft drinks chilled, while an insulated snack bag (£6.99), contains an ice-pack and plastic cutlery. Both are also ideal for office snacks. Curver's zipped, insulated shoulder bag (£8.25) is ideal for transporting freezer food from shop to car to home. Curver also sells a spacious, 32 litre cool box (£19.99) and pair of ice-packs

(95p) which is handy for car or boat. The shoulder bag is available from branches of Debenhams and Co-op stores; the cool box is also available from these outlets and branches of Asda. For local stockists call Curver on 0536 200550.

● Texas Homecare stocks a range of inexpensive barbecues such as the Picnic (£24.99) and all the paraphernalia necessary for grilling, such as cooking utensils, charcoal, briquettes, lighting fluid and firelighters.

● Lakeland Plastics, the mail-order kitchenware company, has some creative outdoor eating ideas. Its compact Snacpac cutlery set opens to reveal a Sheffield steel knife and fork with plastic handles and a plastic spoon; the travelling sleeve conceals flip-top salt and pepper shakers. Individually they cost £3.45, but packs of four cost £10.99. Divided 8 1/2in plastic dinner plates with airtight lids (£2.75 each) enable snacks to be carried without spillage. A washable polythene penguin-decorated insulated bag, measuring 15 1/2in by 17 1/2in (£2.25), keeps food hot or cold for several hours. A colourful, nylon 40 litre cool bag folds flat when not in use and costs £8.99. Add £1.94 p&p for orders up to £29.99; over this amount, orders are sent post free from Lakeland Plastics, Alexandra Buildings, Windermere, Cumbria LA23 1BQ (09662 88200).

● Anyone who thinks picnicware looks naff should check out the stylish terran-covered cool bag and matching ground sheet produced by Cumbrian bag-maker John Chapman for Lakeland Plastics. The well-designed bag (£29.95) has leather trimming and a wide webbing shoulder strap. The 46in by 70in waterproof groundsheet costs £12.95. From Lakeland Plastics, mail order as above.

● The eye-catching Calypso vacuum flask, by Ensa, has a practical screw cap which means you can pour without removing the lid. The flask body houses a double-walled vacuum and airtight sealing system. Available in purple, red or white, it costs £12 from leading department and kitchenware stores.

● The kitchenware shop Bodum stocks an unusual juice jug (£7.95) with a plastic tube in the centre which is designed to be filled with water, left in the freezer, then re-inserted into the jug to cool drinks. Bodum's ice bucket (£7.95) is big enough to hold a magnum bottle (2.5 litres) and has an air-space between inner and outer casings to keep drinks cold. A 4in diameter tray costs £5.95. All from Bodum, 24 Neal Street, London WC2, (071-240 9176).

● The kitchenware shop Bodum stocks an unusual juice jug (£7.95) with a plastic tube in the centre which is designed to be filled with water, left in the freezer, then re-inserted into the jug to cool drinks. Bodum's ice bucket (£7.95) is big enough to hold a magnum bottle (2.5 litres) and has an air-space between inner and outer casings to keep drinks cold. A 4in diameter tray costs £5.95. All from Bodum, 24 Neal Street, London WC2, (071-240 9176).



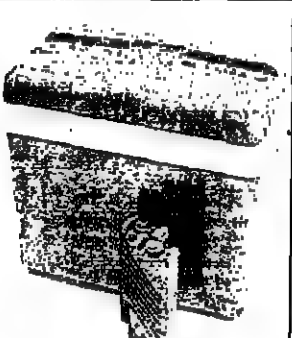
Family outings: all-in-one pack of four place settings — plastic plates, cutlery, tumblers and paper napkins — by Plastico (£3.99)



Penguin motif insulated bag from Lakeland (£2.25)



Lakeland 40 litre folding cool bag (£8.99)



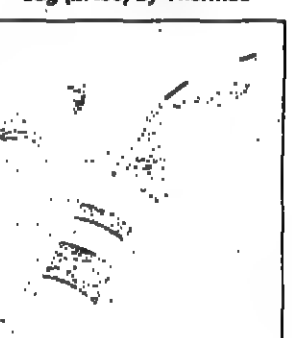
Curver cool box (£19.99) and ice-pack set (95p)



Marilyn Monroe motif cool bag (£7.50) by Thermos



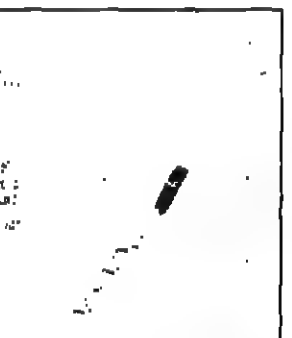
Stoppers for opened bottles of wine (£1.85) from Canine



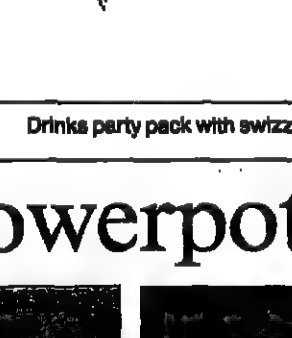
Drinks party pack with swizzle sticks (£3.39) from Canine



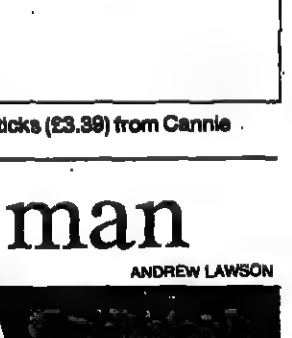
Calypso vacuum flask, in white, purple or red, by Ensa (£12)



Bodum's ice bucket (£7.95) will hold a magnum



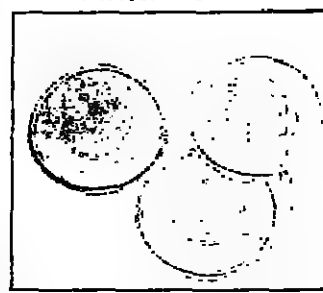
Picnic brand barbecue (£24.99) from Texas Homecare



Insulated snack bag and cutlery set (£6.99) from Curver



Left: Plastico tumblers (99p) and matching teaspoons (49p)



Right: Lakeland plastic plates with airtight lids (£2.75)



Drawstring two-can size cool bag (£3.25) from Curver



Calypso vacuum flask, in white, purple or red, by Ensa (£12)

Craft of the flowerpot man

ANDREW LAWSON

Master potter Jim Keeling reveals the secrets of fine terracotta

Jim Keeling is potty about terracotta (Nicole Swengley writes): "I have spent a lifetime being laughed at for making flowerpots, but it is a fascinating subject and, as an historian, I love the sense of continuity with the past these pots give," he says.

Prized for their ornamental good looks, terracotta pots are ideal for growing plants in. Their warm, earthenware texture was valued by the Romans and the Greeks, and many of today's classic shapes are derived from Etruscan workmanship. By the 18th century, terracotta pots were appreciated as much for their architectural form as for their uses in the growing of herbs and precious plants.

In Victorian and Edwardian times, designs reflected current crazes, with Egyptian motifs and art nouveau shapes emerging as favourites. Mechanization then took over and, by the Second World War, hand-thrown pots had more or less disappeared.

Not until the Sixties did terracotta start to become fashionable again. But the garden pots imported from Spain and Portugal were often under-fired, and they cracked in Britain's frost and rain. Much imported terracotta



Prized pottery: ornamental terracotta pots and urns are ideal for displaying plants on the patio



now comes from France and Italy, and most of it is machine-made, giving a hard, precise surface and brittle feel to any decoration.

A few British potters still throw clay by hand. One is Mr Keeling, who set up Whichford Pottery 15 years ago in Warwickshire. After leaving Cambridge, where he read archaeology, anthropology and medieval and colonial history, he became fascinated by pots while on holiday at an architectural dig in Iran.

Later, he became apprenticed to potters in Wreclesham, near his parents' home

in Surrey. The trouble was, the company only made flowerpots.

At Whichford, the pots are hand-made and hand-thrown, or hand-pressed with moulds. The technique is "basically English but influenced by Spanish and Italian potters", Mr Keeling says.

"You have to be very careful about preparing the clay; it is a bit like making pastry. We prepare an earthenware clay made from a mixture of local clays. It shouldn't be too dry when it is thrown, otherwise the clays will not stick together and will

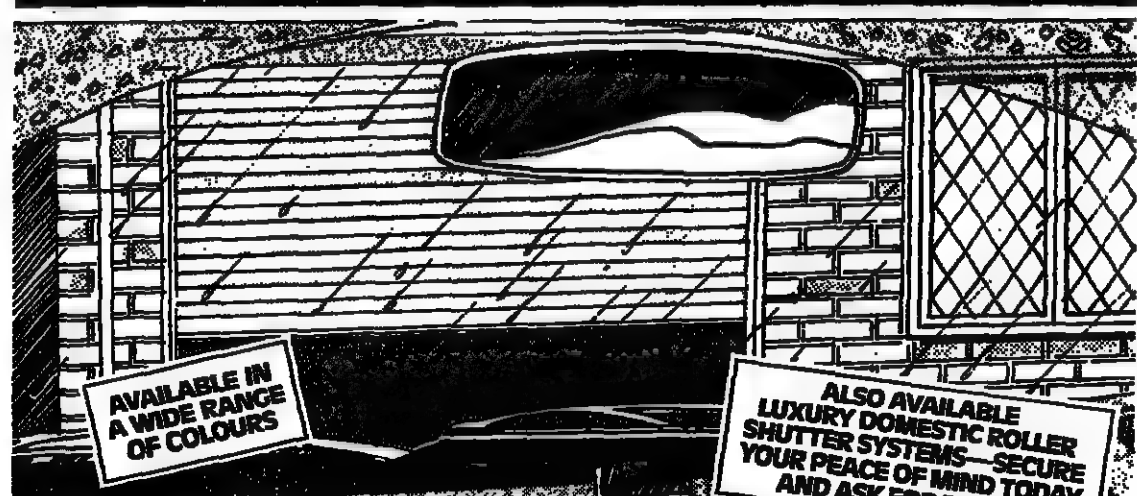
eventually crumble in frost." Whichford produces about 1,500 terracotta pots a week, ranging in size from 4in to 42in diameter and from 6in to 3ft tall. There are 200 designs.

"We still use much the same techniques as in the late Bronze Age," Mr Keeling says. "In this technological age it gives me a lot of pleasure to know that we can do this job better by hand."

● The Terracotta Gardener by Jim Keeling is published by Headline at £14.95. ● Whichford Pottery is at Whichford, Shipston-on-Stroud, Warwickshire (0608 84416).

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THE WEEK IN PREVIEW

CONCERTS

From modest beginnings six years ago, the Lufthansa Festival of Baroque Music has gradually assumed an international complexion. Based on St James's, 197 Piccadilly, it is devoted to music of the 17th and 18th centuries performed on period instruments. It begins on Friday with a programme by Trevor Pinnock's English Concert including *Sturm und Drang* symphonies by Haydn and Mozart. Off in a different direction is Saturday's presentation of Bach cantatas by Joshua Rifkin's Bach Ensemble from New York, a group whose "minimalist" interpretations of such works have aroused much comment. Another extreme of baroque performance practice is represented by Musica Antiqua Cologne, who on Tuesday offer virtuoso music for voice and strings by German composers between Schütz and Bach. The festival leaves Piccadilly on Friday for Westminster Cathedral, where the Catalan boys' choir Escolania de Montserrat, founded in the 14th century, sings Spanish polyphonic music by Victoria and his contemporaries. Next Saturday's concert is by the Tafelmusik Baroque Orchestra from Canada in concertos by Handel and others, while beyond that lie evenings of the St James Baroque Players and from Paris Capriccio Stravagante, who made a striking festival debut last year. Altogether an enlightening survey of contemporary ideas on baroque performance. *Max Harrison*

NEW SHADOWLANDS: In yet another of their programmes conducted by David Atherton, the London Sinfonietta gives the world premiere of Bent Sørensen's *Shadowlands*, adding Schoenberg's *Chamber Symphony No 1* and his chamber orchestra reduction of Mahler's *Lieder eines fahrenden Gesellen* with Altruda Hodgson (mezzo soprano), Queen Elizabeth Hall, South Bank, London SE1 (071-928 8800). Today, 7.45pm.

PAGANINI/STRAAD: The great violinist Ruggiero Ricci marks the 150th anniversary of Paganini's death and the 100th of the birth of The Strad magazine with unaccompanied works by Paganini and Bach. A major occasion. Wigmore Hall, 36 Wigmore St, London W1 (71-935 2141). Tomorrow, 7pm.

ASHKENAZY/LUPU: One great pianist conducts another as Radu Lupu, the quiet Romanian, solos in Mozart's Piano Concerto K 491 with the RPO under Vladimir Ashkenazy. Fore and aft: Weber's *Euryanthe* Overture, Tchaikovsky's *Symphony No 4*. Festival Hall, South Bank, London SE1 (071-928 8800). Tues, 7.30pm.

ANGELS, EXULTATION: Michael Tilson Thomas with the LSO programmes some welcome items by the eccentric yet very interesting American composer Carl Ruggles, viz *Angels, Exultation and Organum*. Later comes Mahler's *Symphony No 2*. Barbican Centre, Silk St, London EC2 (071-638 8891). Wed, 7.45pm.

FROM KENSINGTON: The Kensington Symphony Orchestra essays Tippett's *Symphony No 2* and, with the excellent Jonathan Plowright as soloist, Brahms's Piano Concerto No 2. St John's, Smith Sq, London SW1 (071-222 1061). Thurs, 7.30pm.

CINEMA

THE VANISHING (12): The boyfriend of a tourist kidnapped in France hunts for her taunting captor. Slick psychological thriller in the Hitchcock mould, from Dutch director George Sluizer. Metro, London W1 (071-437 0757). Cannon Tottenham Court Road, London W1 (071-636 6148), from Fri.

THE PUNISHER (18): Dolph Lundgren, king of the ripping

biops, as a former police captain avenging his family's death. Roubine thruggery, based on the Marvel Comics character with Louie Gossett Jr., directed by Mark Goldblatt. Cannon Oxford Street, London W1 (071-630 0310), from Fri.

HARD TO KILL (18): Lacklustre action fare, with Steven Seagal as a cop emerging from a seven-year coma to avenge himself on the crooks who shot him. With Kelly LeBrock, director Bruce Malmuth. Warner West End, London WC2 (071-438 0791), from Fri.

From a French play to a Broadway play to a 1955 Hollywood film to a 1989 Hollywood film: the source material of *We're No Angels* has travelled a long way. By now, not much connects the current film starring Robert De Niro and Sean Penn with its predecessors, apart from the concept of convicts on the run, crusty on the outside, soft as putty within. In 1955, Humphrey Bogart, Aldo Ray and Peter Ustinov appeared as *Devil's Island* escapees, helping out a family they had originally planned to rob. The new screenplay — by David Mamet, no less — sets the action during the Depression in an American town hard by the Canadian border. De Niro and Penn hide out by posing as monks at the local monastery. The stars' double-act is only moderately appealing — much of the time they seem locked in a battle over who can display the most furrowed brow — and the expected whimsy is never far away. Yet the film has more muscle than might be expected, largely through its sharp sense of place and time. The director is Neil Jordan, leaping into the American market. Plaza, London SW1 (071-437 1234), from Friday, certificate 15. *Geoff Brown*



Serenade: Plácido Domingo will sing for Margot Fonteyn

DANCE

Margot Fonteyn, Rudolf Nureyev and Plácido Domingo are coming to London specially for Wednesday's performance of *Romeo and Juliet* by the Royal Ballet. Dame Margot, in whose honour the performance is given, will be in the audience. Domingo, an old friend, will serenade her before the ballet starts, and Nureyev, who partnered her in the premiere 25 years ago, will this time dance *Mercutio*. Another of her former partners, Michael Somes, comes out of retirement to repeat his original role of Capulet, and Anthony Dowell, who was Benvolio at the premiere and later a notable *Romeo* and *Mercutio* to play Tybalt for the first time. Sylvie Guillem, the latest in a long line of Juliets, can be relied upon to hold her own among so much competition; Jonathan Cope is her *Romeo*. Proceeds will establish a trust fund for Fonteyn during her life and thereafter provide scholarships for young dancers. A few seats remain at £250 and £500. Covent Garden (071-240 1066). Wednesday.

ENGLISH NATIONAL BALLET: A revival of Antony Tudor's powerful wartime tragedy *Echoing of Trumpets* with Christopher Bruce's latest creation for the company, *Symphony in Three Movements* and Bejart's *Boire* (Monday, Tuesday); then Ashton's poetic *Romeo and Juliet*. Palace Manchester (061-238 9922).

SADLER'S WELLS ROYAL BALLET: Ashton's romantic comedy *La Fille mal gardée* Monday to Thursday; then the premiere of Graham Lustig's *Isiscape*, to a new score by Peter McGowan, with *The Dream and Flowers of the Forest*, Friday and June 2. Theatre Royal Plymouth (0752-669595).

LONDON CONTEMPORARY DANCE THEATRE: New tour starts with Dan Waggoner's *Turtles all the way down*. Jonathan Lunn's *Goes Without Saying* and Kim Brandstrup's *Orfeo*. Apollo Oxford (0865-244544). Wednesday to June 2.

ROYAL BALLET: *Romeo and Juliet* with Guillem on Monday; on Thursday Tracey Brown for the first time in *Mouth in the Country*, with *Song of the Earth*. Covent Garden (071-240 1066).

FESTIVALS

DICKENS FESTIVAL: Grand Dickensian Parade, scenes from Dickens novels, Mr Pickwick special train, Victorian circus and funfair, fireworks, plus *son et lumière* performances of *Lionheart in Castle moat*. From Thursday. Tourist Information, Eastgate Cottage, High Street, Rochester, Kent. (0634 43666).

GREENWICH FESTIVAL: Concerts at The Queens House, riverboat jazz cruises, traditional folk music, Andean food tastings, and appearances by Julian Bream, Peggy Ashcroft. From Friday. Festival Office, 151 Powis Street, London SE18. (081 371 8687).

SUMMER MUSIC IN CATHEDRALS: 5th annual music festival in cathedrals, including new commission from Edwin Roxburgh, Lennox Berkeley tribute, and venues including Glasgow, Durham, London (St Paul's), Rochester, Canterbury, Ely, Birmingham. From Monday. Details: P O Box 1234, London SW2 2TG (081 571 7100).

JAZZ

OLIVER JONES: Canada's "new Oscar Peterson" — a pounding modern/mainstream player — begins an extensive tour with his trio. Bath Festival, Pump Room (0225 463362) Fri; Belfast Midsummer Jazz & Blues Festival, Europa Hotel (0232 32292) Sat.

JACK WALTRATE: A collaborator with Charles Mingus towards the end of the bassist's career, the trumpeter is in residence for a week with his sextet. Support from saxophonist Barbara Thompson. Ronnie Scott's Club, London W1 (071 439 0747) Mon to Sat.

STEPPIN' OUT: The unfortunately named Grahamopones present a history of vintage jazz dance, helped by The Jiving Lindyhopers. Queen Elizabeth Hall, London SE1 (071 928 8800) Mon.

PHOTOGRAPHY

BILL BRANDT: An extraordinary side to Brandt's character is displayed in these collages and prints. Made during the late 1960s from skeletal fish, feathers, driftwood etc — often found on the beach at Antibes — then painted by Brandt and photographed in black and white, they show his exploration of solid form also found in his distorted nude pictures. Zeal's Cheate Gallery, 8 Cecil Court, London, WC2. (071 836 0506) From May 30.

KARL LAGERFELD: A man with the Midas touch if ever there was one, Lagerfeld has turned his talents to fashion photography and portraits. Hamilton Gallery, 13 Carlos Place, London, W1. (071 499 9493) From May 30.

OPERA

The fifth London International Opera Festival (May 30-June 29) offers another intriguing programme, with the accent again on innovation. Paul Barker, composer of the excellent *Pillow Song* and *La Malinche*, will be conducting his new opera *Albergo Empedocle*, based on E. M. Forster's satire of modern manners, in a double bill with his *Wall* from 1983. Also strongly recommended is Rudzinski's *Mannekins* from the Mecklenburg Opera. This wild, surrealist burlesque on the creation myth has been widely performed abroad but never before in Britain. If you have a black tie and £125 in your pocket, you can put them to good use on one of the special opera evenings at Osterley Park, Ham House or Aspley House (drinks and supper included in price). On a more modest level, young, up-and-coming talent (both singers and composers) will be on display in a series of events. The finale is a gala night presented by Thomas Allen and friends. Full details: 071-720 7610. Box office: 071-836 0008. *Barry Millington*

THEATRE

GASPING: Hugh Laurie and Bernard Hill in Ben Elton's first stage play, a comedy, directed by Bob Spiers. Theatre Royal, Haymarket, London SW1 (071-930 8832). Previews from Fri. Opens June 7.

ROCK

ROBERT PLANT: Leonine ex-Led Zeppelin howler ably supported by the comely Alannah Myles of "Black Velvet" fame. Sheffield City Hall (0742 735295) Fri; Edinburgh Playhouse (031 557 2590) Sat.

LURRIE BELL: Young Chicago blues guitarist, son of harmonica player Carey Bell. His playing evinces all the classic influences including Freddie, B.B. and Albert King. West End Centre, Aldershot (0252 330040) Fri.

BOBBY BROWN: God-fearing soul brother and sex machine whose grunt 'n' grind routines tend to be with success beckoning in America, where their debut album has sold close on 100,000 copies, the Stone Roses tomorrow mount their most spectacular British show yet on Spike Island in the middle of the Mersey. Although no other bands are billed to appear and the singularly inaccessible site boasts a whopping 30,000 capacity, the event has already sold out, underlining the phenomenal devotion of the group's ever-expanding legion of followers. The publicity surrounding the group's recent court appearance, following an alleged assault with several cans of paint on their former record company's offices, has done no harm to their regally truculent image, while a string of re-released singles — "She Bangs the Drums", "Made of Stone" and "Elephant Stone" — have all reached the Top 40 this year in the wake of the Top 5 success of "Fool's Gold". Spike Island, Widnes, Cheshire (061 839 0858) tomorrow. *David Sinclair*

GLYNDEBOURNE: Peter Sellers finds a telling modern analogue for the exotism and search for knowledge in Mozart's *Magic Flute*, in a Sixties Californian hippie setting. Glyndebournes, Lewes, East Sussex (0273 541111). Tomorrow and Wed.

ROYAL OPERA HOUSE: Unexceptional staging of Verdi's *Il trovatore* by Piero Faggioni, but strong cast includes Carol Vessels, Sergei Leiferkus, Alexei Steblianko and Eva Randová. Covent Garden, London WC2 (071-240 1066). Tues and Fri.

ENGLISH NATIONAL OPERA: Much rape and pillage in Robin Holloway's new opera *Clara* — the pillage motif of Wagner and Tippett. Oliver Knussen conducts. London Coliseum, St Martin's Lane, London WC2 (071-836 3161). Tues and Fri.

WELSH NATIONAL OPERA: Highly acclaimed staging of Verdi's *Otello* returns with new Desdemona, Faith Esham, joining Jeffrey Lawton in the title role. WNO, New Theatre, Cardiff (0222 394844). Tues and Fri.

WELSH NATIONAL OPERA: Tim theme of the loss of our spiritual instincts is powerfully treated in John Metcalf's new opera *Tornrak*, superbly directed by Mike Ashman. WNO, New Theatre, Cardiff (0222 394844). Wed.

HANGING THE PRESIDENT: Riverside Theatre Edinburgh production of Michele Castele's South African Death Row drama, directed by Ian Brown. Battersea Arts Centre, Old Town Hall, Lavender Hill, London SW11 (071-223 2223). Opens Wed.

on the heavy-handed side. NEC, Birmingham (021 780 4138) Mon, Tues; London Arena, Limehouse, E14 (071 538 1212) Thurs, Fri.

JOAN BAEZ: Matronly folk singer from the Woodstock generation. Edinburgh Playhouse (031 557 2590) Tues; Apollo, Manchester (061 273 3775) Wed; Royal Albert Hall, London SW7 (071 589 8212) Fri.

EAZY-E/N.W.A: Controversial West Coast gangster-rap crew with a determinedly rebarbative and repetitive line in lyrics. Brixton Academy, London SW9 (071 326 1022) Sun, Mon; Hummingbird, Birmingham (021 236 4236) Tues.

The Times Prize Jumbo Crossword

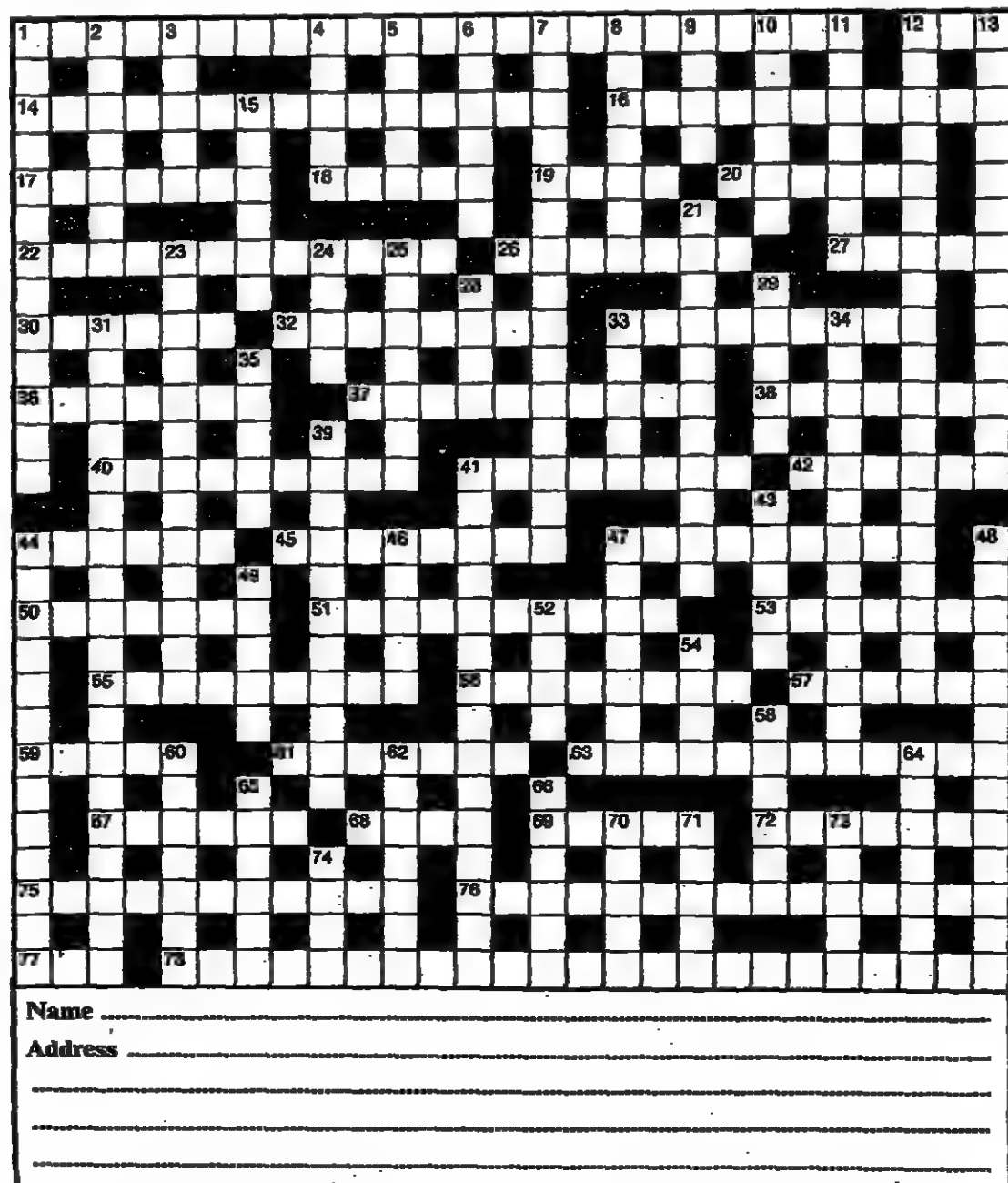
ACROSS

- 1 Music hall proverbially gives the biography its piquancy (7,2,3,3,2,4)
- 12 Bully beef (3)
- 14 When it's dark and stormy, room here for the wounded soldier (11,4)
- 16 Result of a disappointment in love — hater, perhaps? (6,5)
- 17 Exponent of Christmas gets lit up (4-3)
- 18 An honour for a rogue (3)
- 19 Alternative elements discovered in Irish county (4)
- 20 Redhead's not finished the vegetable (6)
- 22 Lawyer rang in order to give notice of attack (5,7)
- 26 Orsino died poor, in sheltered accommodation (7)
- 27 Gesture of contempt from Irish rugby player (5)
- 30 Running buffet helps to fill the bar (6)
- 32 Knew old English song about an ornamental plant (8)
- 33 Diplomats imbibing French wine in one instance swayed (9)
- 36 Heather, always interrupting and giving suggestive looks (7)
- 37 He caricatures American strip-tease queen (10)
- 38 Sibyl caught first boat (7)
- 40 Stenographer's depression leading to this one operation (9)
- 41 Meeting gets a push from the Head (8)
- 42 Appeal verdict at Lords bearing, perhaps (3,3)
- 44 Art feeling a disinclination to work today (6)
- 45 Swindle by decoy shows disrespect for authority (8)
- 47 Sum up Scot as a formalist (9)
- 50 Mounted soldier has to draw new round spectacles (7)
- 51 One born a Dane, perhaps, or a Scotsman (10)
- 53 Carlsen, for example, is given cigarette ends to produce an effect (7)
- 55 Resolve to put off the Tunnel (9)
- 56 Not heretical, like the Church of the East (8)
- 57 Hat for a gondolier (6)
- 59 Music appropriate for the Daring Young Man on the Flying Trapezoid? (5)
- 61 Ability to perceive clearly, in a sense (7)
- 63 Be careful of the poet when out East — his stock could be low (12)
- 67 Be treated as an equal, and make the same (6)
- 68 Small bar where gratuities are rejected (4)
- 69 He keeps his eyes on the peacock's tail (5)
- 72 Bird is yellow round the wing tip (7)
- 75 Transpose opening keys of divine composition for improvement (11)
- 76 Strong point of the city around which a Celt dines out (9,6)
- 77 Return passage in powerful boat (3)
- 78 Nobles once, for example, responsible for everything bad, according to the proverb (5,2,3,4,2,3,4)

DOWN

- 1 Portrait painter with appropriate neckwear (7,6)
- 2 Professional — a large Rugby Union product (7)
- 3 Laud's former fortune turned up (5)
- 4 Cuff is starting to split on raincoat (5)
- 5 He gets involved with any creature that may be spotted (5)
- 6 He bowls in the main for England and France (6)
- 7 A clandestine suit one lost, perhaps, for taking improper liberties (8,7)
- 8 Prohibition an eye-opener to doctor on Greek ship (7)
- 9 Sell illicitly, and the game's up! (4)
- 10 A Balacava, perhaps, with a covering on the peak (3-3)
- 11 Urges former partner to remove business from associates (7)
- 12 Professional man, shortly about to be capitalised (9,10)
- 13 Awful wait, keeping left, on Regent Street diversion for the way west (7,6)
- 15 Put up scrap of sail to accelerate boat on Nile (6)
- 21 Dicky Bean, the favoured contestant (5,6)
- 23 In your eye, art has a new fashion with monotonous regularity (4,2,4,3)
- 24 Is such a biter secure? (4)
- 25 Seek nut for making into carved ornament (7)
- 28 Spoken in a choral work (4)
- 29 In pit, coal at first is cut into small pieces (5)
- 31 Snapping as well as recording a criminal offence (8,3,8)
- 33 Nothing, in short, to pay attention to (5)
- 34 Order car or bus if one is carrying coal (13)
- 35 Queen Mab was no bigger than such a stone (R and J) (5)
- 39 Modern man in the moon's shape is changing (4,7)
- 41 Those who are this presumably have to bite on the bullet (5,2,3,5)
- 43 Fasten outside to peg (5)
- 44 It contains remedies for strange endemic ills (8,5)
- 46 I objectively understand article's argument (5)
- 47 Bridge hand needing no skill — it plays itself (7)
- 48 It appears at the top of a motoring column (8,5)
- 49 Tin soldier holding a sort of drum (5)
- 52 Graphic staff sign in gloss (4)
- 54 The personification, so to speak, of the flatfoot? (4)
- 58 Bishop or scholar is in the soup (6)
- 60 Industry that is going places (7)
- 62 One member winds up and is suspended (7)
- 64 Small mouth with ovolo moulding for foreign statesman (7)
- 65 Remove water from stock (6)
- 66 Each rise makes one more free from anxiety (6)
- 70 "Budge" was the fiendish advice he got in Venice (5)
- 71 Sort of mechanism that helps lesser voices (5)
- 73 A disguise sounds to be effective here (5)
- 74 Very little money goes on the youth leader (4)

Prizes of £50 will be given for the first five correct solutions opened on Monday, June 11, 1990. Entries should be sent to The Times Spring Jumbo Crossword Competition, The Times, 1 Pennington Street, London, E1 9XN. The winners and solution will be published on Saturday, June 16.



SOLUTION TO NO 2186 (yesterday's concise crossword)

ACROSS: 1 Report 4 Snobby 9 Coc-tail 10 Unite 11 Cosh 12 Bloodied 14 Empire-builder 17 Stockpot 19 Plea 21 Baton 22 Epithet 23 Escape 24 Corner

DOWN: 1 Recycle 2 Packs up 3 Reel 5 Nourish 6 Blini 7 Yield 8 Fully booked 13 Broken up 15 Dolphin 16 Reactor 17 Sable 18 Optic 20 Kilo

SOLUTIONS TO NO 2181 (last Saturday's prize concise)

ACROSS: 1 Kashah 4 Step 7 Pew 9 Inertia 10 In use 11 Hermaphrodite 12 Petticoat 16 Non-productive 19 Qualm 20 Roundel 21 Pus 22 Evil 23 Pedant

DOWN: 1 Knight 2 Sheer 3 Attract 5 Tourist 6 Prefer 7 Pathfinders 8 Wino 12 Punjabi 13 Occlude 14 Unique 15 Pellet 17 Rump 18 India

The winners of prize concise No 2181 are Mr N. Milne, Spring Tyne, Westhill, Aberdeen, and G. Jennison, Ayots Green, Hatfield, Doncaster.

Concise Jumbo

There are no prizes for this crossword. The solution will appear on Monday

ACROSS

- 1 Floral wonder of the world (7,2,7,2)
- 12 Oil drill (3)
- 14 Female parent not wed (9,6)
- 16 Family trees expert (11)
- 17 Wine/honey drink (7)
- 18 Dawn (5)
- 19 Sub division (4)
- 20 Scots hunter's guide (6)
- 22 Greek, Roman gods (3,9)
- 26 Early Latin Bible (7)
- 27 Tiny (5)
- 30 Insert with syringe (6)
- 32 Undoing (8)
- 33 Began (9)
- 36 Chinese tile game (7)
- 37 Dictatorial (10)
- 38 Compressed (7)
- 40 Child carer (9)
- 41 Sensitive current regulator (8)
- 42 Yellow cage finch (6)
- 44 Scallywag (6)
- 45 Bewailed (8)
- 47 Hindu mystic teacher (9)
- 50 Naming (7)
- 51 Deluge (10)
- 53 Contravene (7)
- 55 Wine steward (9)
- 56 Food of the gods (8)
- 57 Viewpoint summerhouse (6)
- 59 Blockhead (5)
- 61 Bus conductress (7)
- 63 Unconcerned (12)
- 67 Little child (6)
- 68 Austen Wood-house love story (4)
- 69 Tapestry hanging (5)
- 72 Non-native resident (7)
- 75 Generally (2,2,7)
- 76 Disobedience (15)
- 77 First note (3)
- 78 F A N Y (5,3,7,8)

DOWN

- 1 Victory time (4,2,7)
- 2 Chosen candidate (7)
- 3 Mecca pilgrim robes (5)
- 4 Assistants (5)
- 5 Swamp (5)
- 6 No chance (2,4)
- 7 Dickens Harmon novel (3,6,6)
- 8 Scrounging (7)
- 9 Curve (4)
- 10 Introduction (4,2)
- 11 Pasta strips (7)
- 12 Mainz state (9,10)
- 13 Escape worst consequences (3,3,7)
- 15 Ice houses (6)
- 21 Belly pain (7,4)
- 23 Minute bacterium (13)
- 24 Captured (4)
- 25 Limp (7)
- 28 Mafia chief (4)
- 29 Sandy shore (5)
- 31 Well-tempered clavier composer (6,9,4)
- 33 Quotes example (5)
- 34 Merciful (13)
- 35 Gapped at (5)
- 39 Vegetable casserole (11)
- 41 Explanatory justification (15)
- 43 Courageous (5)
- 44 Grimm little heroine (3,6,4)
- 46 Insert (5)
- 47 S. Asian rainy season (7)
- 48 Greater part (13)
- 49 Concur (5)
- 52 Deep red gem (4)
- 54 Process oven (6)
- 58 Zodiac twins (6)
- 60 Best 50 per cent (3,4)
- 62 Vesuvius city (7)
- 64 Gun muzzle plug (7)
- 65 Decorative surface (6)
- 66 Heavy rope (6)
- 70 Synagogue leader (5)
- 71 Shrub sprout (5)
- 73 Allure (5)
- 74 Elapsed (4)

● MOTOR RACING 50
● CYCLING 51
● RACING 52, 53

Little to enthuse over as Scots are given 'bevvvy' ban

FROM RODDY FORSYTH, VALLETTA, MALTA

NEITHER Scotland, who play Malta in the Ta'Qali stadium here on Monday, nor the Republic of Ireland, who arrive on the island on the same day, have generated any degree of excitement among the locals, although the population is well aware of both teams' status as World Cup finalists.

The lack of enthusiasm has rather more to do with the Maltese preoccupation with Pope John Paul II, who arrived yesterday to commence the first ever papal visit to the island of the Knights of St John.

The Scots are bound to be acutely aware of the papal presence. Tomorrow, at breakfast time, the Pope will make his way through dense throngs to St Julian's Parish Church, a couple of hundred yards from the Scottish headquarters in the Malta Hilton Hotel, and will then proceed to the football stadium to attend a youth rally and watch a demonstration match.

What impact these events will have on a pitch which is already more than weather-beaten is anybody's guess. But, oddly, the playing of football appears to be low on the Scots' agenda at this stage of their preparation for the Italian campaign, which begins in just over two weeks time.

"The human and environmental factors are our priorities," Andy Roxburgh, the Scottish coach, said yesterday. "If they aren't right, the football will not be right. For example, we have told the players that, other than a glass of wine with meals, drink is definitely not on. They understand that there is to be no bevvvy," he said, employing the Glaswegian euphemism for alcoholic consumption.

"It's not that I believe that we are likely to have any problems with this squad. In fact, compared to some previous Scottish World Cup squads, the situation is quite the contrary with our lads. But we know from previous tournaments that certain teams have certain reputations and, in our case, people say: 'All your players will be on the whisky'."

"Now, not only is that not true, but, as somebody who has never tasted whisky in his life, I find it most offensive. I'm not going to give anybody the opportunity to manipulate a false image."

The Scottish management has also banned the use of carbonated drinks, even of the non-alcoholic variety, and deodorants.

But the players have fortunately been told that washing is permissible, a highly desirable dispensation in view of Roxburgh's insistence that they are to sweat as much as possible in the next week in order to acclimatise themselves to the conditions they may expect in Italy.

Roxburgh said: "We have taken the latest in medical advice, and my experience observing the Brazilians in Mexico in 1986 suggests that short spells of quality work are what we should be aiming for."

"We will train only with the ball and play short 15-minute bursts of football. Mental tiredness is more of a problem for us but the change of environment is already working."

Some here have suggested that, given the Scots' record of one victory in their previous seven fixtures, it might be worth their while securing a papal blessing while one is in the offing. But Roxburgh stressed that, at a lay level, all that can be expected is being accomplished.

"We can only minimize the risk of problems and, if it comes to effort on that score, I do not believe we will have cause to reproach ourselves."

Kendall rejects an approach by FA

By IAN ROSS

THE list of possible successors to Bobby Robson as the manager of England shortened yesterday when Howard Kendall ruled himself out of contention.

Within hours of learning that Robson was to resign at the end of next month's World Cup finals in Italy to take up the post of coach with PSV Eindhoven, the Football Association (FA) made contact with Kendall's club, Manchester City, to seek permission to interview him.

No doubt mindful that his already fragile relationship with the City supporters would be further strained were he to fail to secure the job, Kendall, aged 44, diplomatically declined the invitation. But, by the constant use of the phrase "at this time" during the course of a hastily convened press conference at Maine Road, he did hint that he would like to be considered, at a future date, for what he has always described as "the ultimate challenge."

Kendall's decision paves the way for the appointment of Graham Taylor, the manager of Aston Villa, who, along with Terry Venables, the manager of Tottenham Hotspur, is believed to make up the FA's initial shortlist of possible contenders.

Although Kendall did not refer to Taylor by name yesterday, he made it clear that he now expects him to be invited to succeed Robson.

When asked if he would consider reversing his decision was the FA to fill in its attempts to find a suitable manager, Kendall said: "I have no doubt that a suitable candidate will be interviewed and will accept."

"I must stress that it was not the offer of a job," he said. "After careful consideration I felt that I had to decline because I feel that things are going so well here at Manchester City. I like to be involved at club level and not to have to wait three months to put a result right."

"If you have your doubts about doing something then I do not think that you should go so far as accepting an interview. It would be wrong to go down there not wanting the job 100 per cent, and not feeling desperate to get it."

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Hadlee may have to be discounted from Test

Broken hand casts a shadow

By ALAN LEE
CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

THE unthinkable happened to New Zealand yesterday when Richard Hadlee, on whom so much of their Test match strategy depends, was sent to hospital with a suspected broken bone in his bowling hand after being struck by England fast bowler Chris Lewis.

Although bravely returning to the ground to bowl, and take two vital wickets, Hadlee's hand was sore and swollen. He was later back in hospital for more X-rays, fearing news which could discount him from the imminent start of the Test series.

Hadlee's injury, following with indecent haste a vicious blow in the face which put Kenny Rutherford in hospital overnight, totally overshadowed the second Texaco Trophy international before a capacity crowd at The Oval.

This, despite a second consecutive century from Mark Greatbatch and some eye-opening fast bowling from Devon Malcolm in a match which did not approach the heady scoring heights expected.

The early surprises involved the England bowlers. Small was pronounced fit to play but Malcolm was picked alongside him, ahead of Pringle. If all this was against expectations, so too was the way in which Malcolm began with four frugal maidens. He simply bowled straight, at a decent pace, and on a pitch blessed with bounce he was difficult to get away.

Wright at last took two runs off Malcolm in the tenth over, but it was a short-lived conquest. Aiming, characteristically, to drive the next ball wide of mid-on, Wright marginally misused and gave a comfortable catch to Small.

Malcolm was indirectly responsible for the next wicket. Jones played him backward of point and was off balance as the non-striker, Crowe, sprinted for the single.



Kiwi ducks: Greatbatch is brought low as he achieves another high with his second century in three days

By the time Jones engaged gear and set off, Stewart had swooped, shown considerable presence of mind, and carefully returned to the bowler's stumps.

Crowe was never at ease after this, and had made only seven from 31 balls, when Lewis produced a ball with pace, life, and enough movement to take the outside edge.

The same bowler-wicketkeeper combination had dismissed Crowe on Wednesday, at which Rutherford was out second ball for naught. This time he lasted one extra ball before being sickeningly felled by Lewis. It was a furiously quick short ball, climbing so steeply that Rutherford, in position to hook, was not even halfway through the shot when the ball thudded into his unprotected face.

Precious few bowlers enjoy inflicting such injury and Lewis is no sadist. He was visibly distressed as Rutherford lay prone by his stumps and needed to be comforted by Gooch before continuing. Rutherford was helped off and taken to hospital, where he was X-rayed for damage just above the left eye and detained for observation.

Hadlee's suffering was by no means as public. Lewis hit him on the right hand, shortly before lunch, but Hadlee batted on until the interval before being advised to retire.

Priest joined Greatbatch and another 81 runs were added. This gave us a real curiosity, with the fourth wicket having produced 121 runs between four batsmen. Greatbatch was the influential figure and the more one sees of

this stocky left-hander the more one is impressed. He can be compared with England's Robin Smith, both in power and self-discipline. A mighty blitzer, especially when the ball is of full length, he cajoles himself between balls, talking and gesturing. When he clubbed DeFreitas over midwicket for six, he shook his fist to urge himself the final few steps towards another century. Two overs later he was there and New Zealand's score was beginning to look competitive.

Greatbatch was out in the penultimate over, but by then he had prompted a lengthy debate between the umpires by protesting over how many short pitched balls were being permitted. New Zealand's home regulations for one-day cricket dictate that any ball bounding above shoulder

height is a wide, but here, the stipulation is head height. Confusion is understandable and this is another area in which the game would be far better served by one, binding international rule.

Six overs into England's reply, they were 29 for three, the glamour players all gone. Gower, needing a score to justify his rapid recall, languidly pulled Hadlee's second ball for four. To the next he moved too far across his stumps and was bowled behind his legs.

Walsh returns

Courtney Walsh returns after a two-match absence to the Gloucestershire side for the championship game against Middlesex at Lord's, starting today. The West Indian fast bowler said "I've taken two games off to re-charge my batteries."

SCOREBOARD FROM THE OVAL

NEW ZEALAND			
	15	50	100
1 G Wright c Small b Malcolm	15	45	31
2 A H Jones run out	7		
3 M D Crowe	15	110	158
4 M J Greatbatch c Smith b Malcolm	111	110	158
5 R J Hadlee	9	45	84
6 M W Priest c Smith b DeFreitas	24	45	51
7 D S Smith not out	25	12	28
8 C Pringle b Small	1	2	28
9 J P Malrow and D K Morrison did not bat			
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-25, 2-33, 3-53, 4-174, 5-202, 6-212			
BOWLING: DeFreitas 11-1-47-1; Malcolm 11-5-19-2; Lewis 11-1-51-1; Small 11-0-59-1; Hemmings 11-2-34-0			
ENGLAND			
	58	7	105
1 G A Gooch not out	58	7	105
2 D I Gower b Hadlee	4	1	3
3 R A Smith c Smith b Hadlee	5	1	14
4 A J Lamb b Pringle	4	1	5
5 A J Stewart not out	28	3	78
6 P A J Pringle	1	2	28
7 D R Pringle	1	2	28
8 D R Pringle	1	2	28
9 D R Pringle	1	2	28
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-25, 2-33, 3-53, 4-174, 5-202, 6-212			
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Mixed statistical evidence

By RICHARD LOCKWOOD

IT HAS been a long-held convention that it is easier to win one-day matches batting second than batting first. Evidence from recent one-day internationals seems to bear this out. West Indies won four matches against England in the Caribbean batting second (the other two were abandoned). Ten of the 23 completed matches between England and New Zealand, 14 have been won by the side batting second.

But not all the statistics are so convincing: in the three World Cup matches played in England, 26 matches were won by the side batting second but 30 by the side batting first; and in the last World Cup played in India and Pakistan, 14 of the 27 matches were won by the side who batted first.

Matches played in the Texaco Trophy and the Prudential Trophy that preceded it also bear out the theory: 33 of the 53 matches before today have been won by the side batting second, only 18 by the side batting first.

Of the 23 completed matches between England and New Zealand, 14 have been won by the side who batted first.

Gallagher warns All Blacks

By KEITH MACKLIN

JOHN Gallagher, formerly of London Irish, Wellington and New Zealand and indisputably the world's No. 1 full back, yesterday met the Press at Headingley following his six-figure, five-year signing for Leeds Rugby League Club.

Gallagher, described by the Leeds chief executive, Alf Davies, as "the most important signing ever made by a rugby league club from rugby union", sounded alarm bells for New Zealand when he expressed serious misgivings about his adopted country's chances of holding on to its best players.

Gallagher said: "The situation is dangerous. The All Blacks have now had a terrific run of between 40 and 45 matches without defeat, and some of the players feel that

they have proved themselves in rugby union and are looking for fresh fields to conquer.

"More players could be ready to sign professional, particularly if they get the sort of offers made to me and to Matthew Ridge, who has gone to Manly-Warringah in Sydney."

Leeds would not reveal the price paid to bring Gallagher back to this country and to rugby league, though it is reliably believed to be between £350,000 and £400,000 over five years, with added match fees and bonuses.

"I had no serious intention of signing for a rugby league club, although I had seen games live and on TV and, like all rugby union backs, thought I would like to have a go at it. When Leeds contacted

me I jokingly said, 'Make me an offer I can't refuse'. They came back to me and did just that," Gallagher said.

David Ward, the Leeds coach, is in Australia negotiating with Gary Freeman, the New Zealand international rugby league half back, who is likely to be the club's next significant signing.

Pollard doubt

Paul Pollard, the Nottinghamshire opener, may be ruled out of playing for six weeks after breaking a finger in two places in a second-team game this week.

Pollard enjoyed considerable success last season when he became the county's youngest-ever batsman to score 1,000 first-class runs in a season, but has struggled this season to recapture his form.

delicately by 50,000 people at a recent Blue Jays game. Apparently an investigation has been launched, though the human race has been investigating the same thing pretty thoroughly ever since Eden without coming to any very certain conclusions. The ball-park-fencing rooms are now equipped with notices advising couples that discretion can be achieved with the drawing of the curtains. The SkyDome management is considering the more drastic step of installing one-way glass to prevent a repetition of the couple's novel interpretation of baseball's traditional seventh-inning stretch. Naturally, the Canadian journo have been living off the story for days. The best line thus far: Did the roof move for you, honey?

Points of distinction
With the domestic football season on its last knockings, I feel I am safe in announcing the nomination for this column's team of the year. It goes without any debate, to Impact United of the Matlock and District League first division, and I am grateful to John Large for writing to tell me about them. Their record for the season was played 21, drawn 1, lost 20, for which they were awarded a single point. However, they failed to fulfil their 22nd and final fixture of the season. For this crime, the league docked them three points. Impact United thus finished with a points total of minus two.

Rooms with a view
Warning: this story is not suitable for minors. It concerns the Toronto SkyDome, a sporting arena which, they tell me, the eighth wonder of the world. It can hold 50,000 people, all under cover, and it has a retractable roof to keep the weather out - a sensible precaution in Canada. It incorporates a 70-room hotel, including rooms from which you can watch the Toronto Blue Jays strut their stuff. These cost up to £3800 (about £400) a night.

The close association of hotel bedroom and sports stadium is a novelty. Certainly it was for the couple who were caught in flagrante

second slip with his hands on his knees. He sent down, in fact, six overs, and took 10 wickets for three runs - three less before, the rest bowled. He is also a useful golfer and a pugnacious scrum-half. His family is interested in learning how this performance can be measured, compared or rated. Oh, the lad's name? Liam Rotham.

Runs in the family
This column has always been fascinated by the murky underworld of under-13 cricket: a never-never land of Herculean performances in which individuals reach heights of attainment they may never know again, no matter how long they live, while about their ears, entire sides fall like the House of Usher. The first performance of note I have heard about this season comes from a match played last weekend between prep schools, Cundall Manor, near Thirsk, and Red House, from York. Here are the deeds of one Cundall lad: he scored 161 not out from a total of 208, coming in at No. 3. He bowled a bit, too, when he was not standing at

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Schwarzenegger's fitness to lead

President Bush has committed himself to the dream of a healthier United States. Guess who he has appointed chairman of his No. 1 rah-rah group, the President's Council on Physical Fitness and Sport? The answer defies belief: Arnold Schwarzenegger.

Schwarzenegger is a bodybuilder - the bodybuilder. His pectorals may be as big as a normal chap's head, but I am at a loss to know what the man has to do with fitness, let alone sport.

Schwarzenegger has won Mister this, that and the other, but mainly he is a film star. Pump up the pecs and look gruff. Arnie. His most memorable role was that of Conan the Barbarian. Bodybuilding is a sport - now that's not the word I'm looking for - infested with drugs. Schwarzenegger has even admitted taking steroids in "modest" amounts. A survey in 1988 demonstrated that 6.6 per cent of high school senior males in the United States had taken steroids. No doubt Arnie can improve things there.

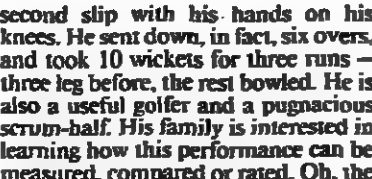
Even without the drugs, the appointment stinks. The association of fitness with the cultivation of enormous muscles, designed simply to impress, seems, as the Penn State University professor, Charles



Yessalis, says in the US magazine *Sports Illustrated*, "an inappropriate message. We are not talking about sport, or fitness, in any genuine sense at all. Instead, the concept of fitness has been equated with a parody of masculinity, and a paradigm of narcissism. And these, as it happens, are the two least attractive aspects of the entire United States."

Runs in the family

This column has always been fascinated by the murky underworld of under-13 cricket: a never-never land of Herculean performances in which individuals reach heights of attainment they may never know again, no matter how long they live, while about their ears, entire sides fall like the House of Usher. The first performance of note I have heard about this season comes from a match played last weekend between prep schools, Cundall Manor, near Thirsk, and Red House, from York. Here are the deeds of one Cundall lad: he scored 161 not out from a total of 208, coming in at No. 3. He bowled a bit, too, when he was not standing at



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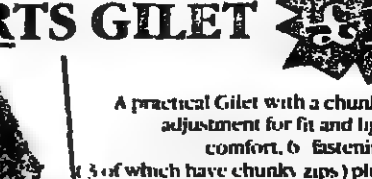
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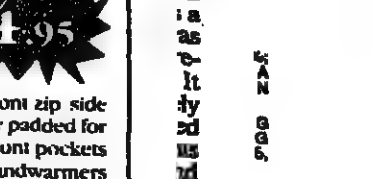
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England squad receives a distinguished send-off for their World Cup campaign

Robson plays the diplomat

FROM STUART JONES
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT
CAGLIARI, SARDINIA

BOBBY Robson, leaving behind the shambles that have enveloped him over the past few days, arrived here yesterday to state a different case. Having explained the reasons behind his impending departure, the England manager played the role more of a visiting diplomat for the sake of the local media.

"This is a very important part of my life," he said, as he was surrounded by excited photographers and reporters.

"I've come here to try to win the World Cup and I will give that every single moment of my attention. This is a very big tournament and that is all we want to concentrate on."

He has been distracted from the moment he learned, through a telephone call from here on Wednesday night, that his intentions were to be revealed prematurely.

Including the defeat by Uruguay, which broke England's prolonged unbeaten run, this week has been overloading with complications, disruptions, accusations and ill feeling.

Robson appeared to be relieved that his domestic ordeal was over but his fortunes have yet to turn.

The chartered Boeing 737, bearing the legend of Sir Stanley Matthews on its side, was 45 minutes late when it landed on the sun-baked tarmac, and the pilot left behind the official reception committee.

A long queue, formed by members of the World Cup organizing committee, local dignitaries and hostesses, had to trot 50 yards in undignified fashion to be in the plane. At least they would have been if the cabin door had opened on the side where they were standing.

Instead, to the particular dismay of the photographers, the England team disembarked hidden from view.

The officials, the players and their wives could be glimpsed only briefly as they strolled behind the plane to the three luxurious coaches which had been parked for their convenience a few yards away.

The welcome was subdued. Apart from a handful of



Meeting the master: Bobby Robson, the England manager, chats with Sir Stanley Matthews, the legendary former international, who wished the England party well before it flew off for the World Cup yesterday

curious passers-by, only one English supporter was visible. He stood out principally because of his shaved head, several gold earrings flashing in his ears and a tattoo, heralding the names of Colin and Jill, on an arm.

Security was more evident but only because there were representatives from five different forces milling around on the tarmac. Of the contingent of 3,500 riot policemen drafted on to the island for the

forthcoming month, fewer than half a dozen were present. Trouble, clearly, was not expected.

Nor did Bobby Robson force a hostile reception, either. He was prepared to hold a brief conference in the foyer of the airport, and to wait patiently while his responses were translated, before leaving with the party for the Is Morus hotel, situated on the coast half an hour to the south of the capital city.

"We want to be the people's team," he said. "We want to be the team which Sardinia supports. Everybody here has been very co-operative and they have done everything for us. I'm sure our stay here will be pleasant and happy and, naturally, we hope it will be successful as well."

Yet there is already a cloud on the horizon. Both of the practice games, scheduled for Tuesday and a week later, are in doubt. Cagliari, the first

opponents, who have won promotion from the second division, are playing tomorrow and have yet to confirm they will be available two days later.

Torres, chosen because the town is in the north end of the island, are no more certain to welcome their fixture. They are on the edge of being relegated from the third division and may prefer to keep their minds on their potentially ignominious fate.

Having missed out on automatic promotion from the fourth division, Cambridge and Chesterfield make their first appearance at Wembley this afternoon to decide the one third division place which remains vacant.

Managed by Paul Hart, and Chris McMenamy, Hart's assistant and the son of Lawrie, Chesterfield include a player whose career looked to have been curtailed by a back injury earlier this year — John Chiodo, the former Tottenham Hotspur and Nigerian international winger.

He has a chance to rekindle his career this afternoon where he will operate wide on the right, alongside Calvin Flummer, once of Nottingham Forest, who scored four goals in the two-legged semi-final against Maidstone United.

Suspension deprives Cambridge of Daish, their captain and central defender.

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

TRANMERE Rovers, one of Britain's more endearing Cinderella clubs, return to Wembley for the second time in eight days tomorrow, confidently expecting to become the third footballing force on Merseyside.

After winning the first important honour in the club's history last weekend, when they defeated Bristol Rovers to lift the Leyland DAF Cup, Tranmere will be promoted to the second division for the first time since 1938 if they can overcome Notts County in the third division play-off final.

Victory will complete a remarkable transformation. Three years ago the Birkenhead club were close to extinction. But for the intervention of Peter Johnson, the club chairman, in March of that year, Tranmere would almost certainly have failed in their efforts to prosper in the same area as Everton and Liverpool.

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Charlton attacks Robson pressure

FROM CLIVE WHITE, IZMIR, TURKEY

THE Republic of Ireland flew out of Dublin yesterday to prepare for the World Cup final, depriving Jack Charlton of his last chance of a day's fishing salmon in the west of Ireland.

Stories, no matter how tall, of how he was applauded by onlookers every time he fished a 9lb salmon out of the Corrib in Galway made a pleasant change to the sordid rumours surrounding the resignation of Bobby Robson as England manager.

Charlton has absolute sympathy for any man who has been with the position of England manager.

He said that "no one in their right mind" would apply for the post. "Graham Taylor has to be the favourite. He's a young man, and he's done very well. But I don't envy him the task."

certainly would never want it," he said.

Not that the Irish have been without their own strife this week. The difference is that their dispute over the players' financial rewards has remained internal and was settled amicably.

Now the Irish can get on with the job of polishing still further their shiny new reputation as world beaters when they take on Turkey here tomorrow with a full complement of players.

The squad suffered an interminable eight-hour journey to Izmir, welcomed the 90 degree heat when they trained in the early evening. That's what we've come for. We've got two weeks here and in Malta to get used to it. It will be hot on Sunday afternoon but that's why we're here and it suits us."

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Rovers aim to be third force

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

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YACHTING Race jury will not penalize cruiser

By BARRY PICKTHALL

A WELCOME return of wind yesterday helped speed Creighton's naturally across the finish line at Southampton to win the Whithorn Round the World Race.

Finishing at noon, the British cruiser, skippered by John Chiodo, was an hour and 15 minutes faster than Tony Phillips, a cousin of Mark Phillips, who was the second fastest.

Phillips, who was the second fastest, was the easy winner, ahead of Wish Integrity, which was still 700 miles from home.

The previous night saw the arrival of Live Enterprise, the Bob Salmon entry which had been caught on calm for the previous three days. Waiting for them was Andrew Ditchfield, who had been notified from the yacht last week. It proved a false alarm, and after a check-up in Cork Regional Hospital Ditchfield, aged 27, was allowed home.

Last night the jury, which had been expected to alter their decision to penalize the Russian team on Pazzi, was already busy planning for a new entry in the next race, in 1993.

Vladimir Murnikov, Pazzi's skipper and project manager, said yesterday that far from being disillusioned by the experience, he hoped to find sponsorship for a joint Russian-American entry.

"We learned many lessons from the time we reached Auckland we had no money at all and have relied on public support for the rest of the way," Murnikov said.

This novel but pennyless entry, which had to undergo considerable modifications during the week before the start, captured the public's imagination after Pepsi Cola withdrew its support last September.

We raised about £2,000 during the month in Auckland and now we have £55,000 in Fort Lauderdale which gave us the money to buy new sails," Murnikov said.

Now he plans to take his distinctive design which began the race as the 100-1 outsider, back to the US next month on a fund-raising tour.

Still at sea, Tracy Edwards and his hungry all-women crew on Maudslayi were treated to a day of rain and sun and wind last night after running out of food on Wednesday.

"We came across the two time this morning in the bottom of the boat," reported.

RESULTS: Whithorn Round the World Race. 1. Creighton (UK), 2. Phillips (UK), 3. Phillips (UK), 4. Phillips (UK), 5. Phillips (UK), 6. Phillips (UK), 7. Phillips (UK), 8. Phillips (UK), 9. Phillips (UK), 10. Phillips (UK).

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Football when free of the English disease

By JOHN WILLIAMS

A researcher into the behaviour of football crowds

match in a place near the ground. Outside the Prater, single tickets were changing hands for up to 5,000 Austrian shillings (about £250). The sellers were Portuguese; the purchasers usually, headily, Italian.

Inside the Prater, segregation between rival supporters in the 57,000 crowd was down, in some parts, to a line of Austrian police officers. (Shades of Heysel). There were no problems — indeed the police here reported no arrests. The Ultras of San Siro's Curva Sud arranged their usual, dramatic pre-match fireworks display, and young fanatics — as well as older men and women — found common cause in the skull-and-crossbones t-shirts of *Pazza dei Leoni* and *Brigate Rosse*. The Ultras provide the kind of semi-formalised but independent club attachment demonstrably lacking for "street" teenagers in England.

Interestingly, too, there seemed little of the peculiarly nationalist cause among the Milanese that seems to surface even among some English club followers abroad. A banner unfurled by the Curva Sud, for example, urged Milan to "Win it for us and not for Italy", while, perhaps as a pointed joke aimed at the absurd and narrow decision of British television not to show the match live, the Italians also produced a range of flags carrying names of capital cities from around the world. Many Milan supporters also wore the orange of the Netherlands in deference to their present trio of Dutch World Cup players and as an important new example of cross-national forms of football identity.

Milan won this one, of course, and Vienna survived a noisy night which later had some loudly drunken tomfoolery.

There were young men here from Italy — the "hard core"

Race b

Fittipaldi speeds into front row as Indy 500 revs up

Experienced Sales

Every rider to his own role in cycling's leading pro-am event

Race built like a Russian doll

By PETER BRYAN

THE Milk Race, which begins tomorrow and ranks as the world's top pro-am cycling event, can be likened to a gaily painted wooden Russian doll. Open the doll and a smaller version is revealed. The process continues until the smallest of all is reached.

The outside doll is the overall winner of the 1,200-mile race, which starts at Penzance and ends, after crisscrossing England and Wales, two weeks later in Liverpool. Each of the other six dolls represents a separate category of the race, such as the champion climber, the fastest sprinter, the most consistently placed rider and the leading under-21 rider.

The Milk Race is a series of races within a main structure. Complicated, perhaps, for the millions of spectators whose brief roadside glimpse of the 102 competitors will be accompanied by the swish of tyres.

But all the riders will have their race roles decided by their managers after the opening five-mile time-trial prologue on a skilful and cross-bones course at Penzance — a dangerous one — to determine who wears the race leader's traditional yellow jersey for the next day's opening stage from Land's End to Plymouth.

There are 17 teams of six in the marathon, 12 amateur and five professional, racing for a record £60,000. Three of the professional teams are British, prepared on an unsuitable diet of city centre events lasting an hour, and two from Belgium with a background of longer and harder racing in their legs. Colin Sturgess, Britain's world track pursuit champion, rides for the Belgian Tulip

team and the new professional, Harry Lodge, is in the rival La William squad. Last year Brian Walton, a Canadian riding for the American 7-Eleven team, was the overall winner by 25 seconds from Keith Reynolds, of Britain, now a member of this season's dominant Banana-Falcon set-up.

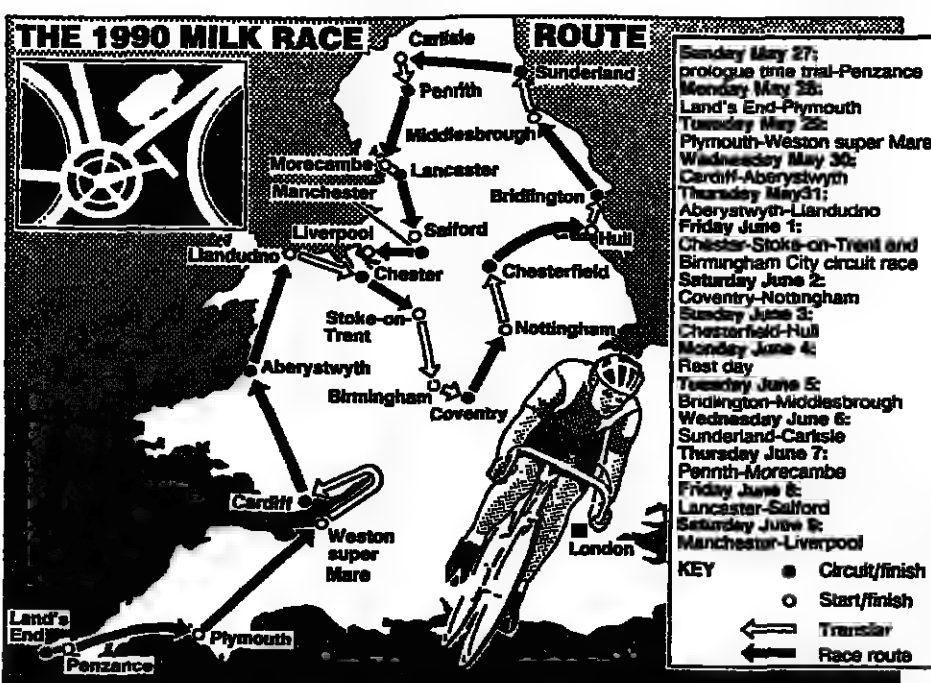
In the next fortnight the main action is most likely to come from the dozen amateur squads, headed by the Soviet Union, whose riders have won the race on seven occasions and taken the team award on 10.

East Germany, Poland and Czechoslovakia are Eastern Europe's other challengers. Add to that strong teams from Australia, New Zealand, United States, France and The Netherlands and Britain's amateur chances cannot be higher than 50-50.

The storybook result would be for a second victory for Joey McLaughlin, the race winner in 1986, who is now in the Ever Ready team after two years abroad, much of it spent out of action with a damaged right knee. McLaughlin is a fighter and is desperate to see the return of the form that also won him the Kellogg's Tour of Britain. And as the final finish line is in Liverpool, he will be even more encouraged to stay ahead in front of a home crowd.

Road racing is as unpredictable, however, as the Grand National and in 13 days anything can, and usually does, happen to make a mockery of forecasts.

TOMORROW'S STAGE: Penzance to Plymouth (140 miles). Penzance start 14.01, last rider finishes 16.08.



LONDON

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Degrees from the Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland regions will be published on Monday.

TRAVEL

At the end of the road

When you reach Key West, the southernmost point of the United States, there is nowhere else left to go. Lucretia Stewart succumbs to its ruggedly raunchy charms and learns the art of survival on a diet of alcohol and raw fish

When Ernest Hemingway was asked why, in the Thirties, he had fetched up at Key West, he is supposed to have answered rather coyly that there was nowhere left to run to. When he met Martha Gellhorn in a bar called Sloppy Joe's, he learnt that there was still Cuba.

Driving the 154 miles south from Miami, you can see what he meant. Key West has an end-of-the-line feel to it, which the inevitably slow cruise along US1 reinforces. US1 has a speed limit of 55mph and is single-lane almost all the way. And though this does mean you get ample opportunity to admire the birdlife (watch out for pelicans on kamikaze missions aimed at your windscreen) and the shifting blues of water and sky to each side of Seven Mile Bridge, it does take forever. You think you will never get there and, when finally you do, there is nowhere else to go. The days of taking boats on to Cuba are long gone.

It is difficult to get a handle on Key West, but the island's writers provide, as it were, the key to the place. Read Hemingway and particularly *To Have and Have Not*. Read Thomas McGuane's *Ninety-Two in the Shade*. Read Thomas Sanchez's *Mike Zero*. Read John Leslie's *Blood on the Keys*. And read, if you can get hold of it, *The Key West Reader* (published by Tortugas, Box 2626, Key West, FL 33045), with contributions about the place from Key West writers as diverse as Elizabeth Bishop, Philip Caputo, John Dos Passos, Tennessee Williams and all the above.

A picture will begin to form. Key West likes writers and writers like Key West. You will learn that the Florida Keys in general, and Key West in particular, generate a kind of rugged prose — rugged in style and in subject matter. The Keys, it seems, are full of murder and mayhem, smuggling and shipwrecking, piracy, drugs, drunkenness, and brawling. Miami is, after all, not so far away.

But when you get to the end of the road, you may wonder if you have come to the right place for all that stuff. There, in the Old Town, are the prettiest little white wooden-frame houses, peeping out from behind forests of bougainvillea, poinciana, oleander and jacaranda. There the streets all have soft-sounding names like Angela, Olivia, Frances, Petronia, Rose and Virginia. There are old trams and pink taxis. There are cats and kittens everywhere. "How pretty! How quaint!" you think. "How tame." And where, you wonder, "is all the action I've been reading about?"

But quite soon it becomes clear

that the fears Hemingway expressed in *To Have and Have Not* were groundless. He had Harry Morgan predict gloomily, "What they're trying to do is starve you Conchs [locals] out of here so they can burn down the shacks and put up apartments and make this a tourist town... they're going to make it into a beauty spot for tourists." Not quite. There are tourist attractions but they are all rather tacky, they somehow just miss, as if to ensure that no real tourist could take them seriously.

Take this "southernmost" business. Key West is the southernmost point of the United States, and much is made of it. There is the southernmost motel, southernmost car rental company, southernmost laundromat, and so on. It all seems reasonable enough until you go to Mallory Square to watch the sunset. Key West is big on sunsets. Mallory Square at dusk has much of the atmosphere of a fairground, albeit a rather kitsch one. And there, strolling up and down incessantly, drowning out the chatter and bustle with a mournful and penetrating wail is — you blink, but, no, he's real all right (or real enough for Key West) — the self-styled southernmost bagpiper.

While the piper may be one of the wackiest sights in Key West, there are other less obvious things that make you wonder. I went one morning to the central post office on Whitehead Street and asked, *en passant*, why there seemed to be so few letterboxes. Back came the response "Better not use those you do find. People tend to put beer bottles and dead fish in them."

Then there is the condom and French tickler (assorted styles and colours) dispenser in the ladies' room at Sloppy Joe's. This may, of course, be part of the anti-Aids campaign exemplified by the car stickers that read "Don't Forget Your Rubber, Bubba" ("bubba" seems to be Conch for "mate" or "pal").

Sloppy Joe's is one of the two bars that vie for the honour of having been Hemingway's favourite hang-out. The other is Captain Tony's, which claims to be the oldest on the island. From quite early in the day, rock music of the late Sixties blares from its shabby portals and it is difficult to resist the breakfast Bloody Marys. In 1985 Captain Tony ran for mayor and almost won. You can buy a poster of him with the adage "All you need in life is a tremendous sex drive and a great ego — brains don't mean a shit."

That's one of the attractions of Key West. Despite its prettiness, its raunchy style makes you want to behave in a raunchy way. You start wanting to stay up late getting drunk. You start wanting to breakfast on booze and raw fish. You feel deprived if you haven't had six Margaritas for lunch and 12 for dinner.

And fortunately there are plenty of places to cater to this new, depraved side of your character. Drinking apart, you can also eat well in Key West. The fresh shrimp is particularly fine and, unless you want to show off, you can exist very comfortably on alcohol, Conch chowder and raw fish, a diet that leaves you raring to go.

The Full Moon Saloon on Simeon Street is where the writers hang out. The proprietor has style. One year he closed the bar on New Year's Eve because he considered it "amateur night". It's where unseemable things are supposed to happen but, on the night I went there, the action was back at our little white cottage on Stump Lane. It was nothing very dramatic, just a small robbery, but it did provide the explanation for the numerous pawn shops in Key West. The thieves had entered discreetly and with evident ease. They had taken \$250, an antique gold watch and a brand-new tape

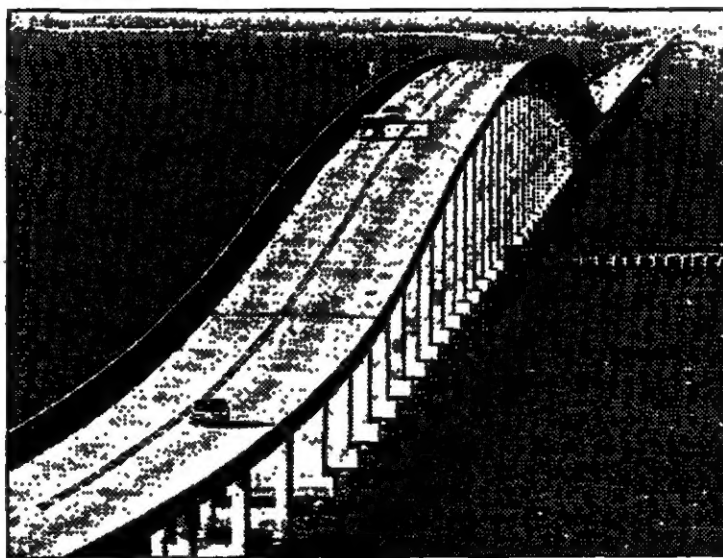


Where America ends: Key West has the southernmost car rental company, and the southernmost laundromat, in the United States

recorder. Officer Arbie was well over 6ft, blond and blue-eyed. He told us that the town was now a "crack town" and had been for the past year and a half. There had been 47 burglaries during the previous 10 days in the same small area of the Old Town.

I had been beginning to wonder what happened in Key West. I had

been to the Hemingway House, a beautiful place wrecked by the presence of about 50 pampered cats. I had seen the sunset — and the piper. I had admired the architecture and the ocean. I had eaten Mexican, Cuban, Italian and French food. Now I knew that Key West was a real place after all, just like in the books.



Switchback: the Overseas Highway links Key West with the mainland

TRAVEL NOTES

There are no direct flights from Britain to Key West. The cheapest way of flying there is with Pan Am (reservations 071 409 3377) via Miami. An Apex return, booked a minimum of three weeks in advance costs from £471. Airborne Travel (071 706 2288) is currently offering the best deal on flights to Miami at £260 return in June.

If you wish to drive from Miami, to Key West, be sure to get your travel agent to make the booking from the UK, otherwise you are liable for \$150 "drop off" charge if you want to return the car to somewhere other than where you picked it up. Alamo has very reasonable rates.

Hotels: The Pier House, 1 Duval Street, Key West (0101 305 294 9541). Double rooms with ocean views start at \$115 a night on weekdays, and \$120 at weekends in low season. The Beach, Simeon Street, Key West (0101 305 296 5000). Doubles with ocean views from \$105 mid-week, and \$124 at weekends in low season.

Essential reading: *The Florida Keys: A History and Guide* by Joy Williams (Random House, £8.50).

Devon coast clean-up

After the great mop-up, which beaches will be safe to swim from?

A massive clean-up effort has succeeded in reopening most of the oil-hit beaches of south Devon in time for the Bank Holiday. More than 100 workmen have helped mop up the tons of oil which spilled into Bigbury Bay after the Rosbeary supertanker accident. Although there is still oil on rocks and headlands, tourism officials say the area is ready to cope with the annual holiday invasion.

The first priority was to clear the most popular of the beaches at Challoborough and Bigbury-on-Sea. Both were reopened within days of the disaster, which took place on May 12, but work continued at the more remote and beautiful beaches.

One of the hardest tasks was at Wootton at the mouth of the Erme. Only one narrow lane leads to the beach, and police had to run traffic controls as dozens of workmen and their machinery were moved into the area. But South Hams council says both Wootton on the east side of the River Erme and Molecombe on the west are now clear of oil and open for visitors.

The whole of the Erme estuary is designated a Site of Special Scientific Interest, and much of the early cleaning operation was concentrated on trying to keep oil away from its salt marshes, which provide a valuable habitat for birds.

Further round the coast, the beaches at Bantam and Thurlestone, which were less seriously affected, have been reopened after mopping-up work.

Visitors who stay at Thurlestone like to explore the pretty, uncrowded beaches, and on Thursday the council claimed it had cleared the major coves along the coast. The nature reserve behind the beach at Thurlestone, South Milton Ley, was protected from the oil by a sandbar and an oil boom, and its population of birds and other wildlife has not suffered.

The coast is full of rocky outcrops and headlands, and after taking expert advice, South Hams council has come to the conclusion it is little point in trying to wash these. A mild detergent is being used on some rocks on beaches, but most of the work is being left to the wearing action of the sea. With the beaches already clear of oil, the council hopes that the only summer tourists who will notice any residual pollution will be keen rock-climbers who venture away from the main beaches.

Edward Davenport

Life is not a shopping mall

Andorra? Oxford Street in the Pyrenees, a friend said caustically. "Just a big duty-free shop. And a tax evaders' paradise. Why bother?"

There was a certain amount of truth in his strictures. Yes, Andorra-la-Vella — the capital — is indeed mostly a shopping mall, if a well-designed one. And yes, its virtually duty-free goods are indeed a potent attraction. But that in its turn creates one of the oddest economies in Europe. Some three million people pass through the country each year, and though the goods they buy are dirt-cheap for a foreigner's point of view, each purchase carries a small tax of 3 per cent or so, and 3 per cent

multiplied by three million and spread under a population of under 40,000 in a country smaller than Yorkshire produces some very interesting social results.

I was particularly intrigued by its political structure. Was it really a sovereign republic, as was claimed? Or was its independence purely notional, a Spanish *San Marino* or Sark? Very rapidly, at the customs barrier, one discovers that sovereignty is real, for cars tend to be turned over with an enthusiasm not usually found at European frontier posts these days. That independence might well have been tested if Spain had been drawn into the Second World War. But the miniature state survived that, and even managed to stand aloof from the horrors of the Spanish Civil War.

Andorra-la-Vella sits at the junction of three river valleys which form a Y. At more than 1,000 metres, it boasts of being Europe's highest capital, but even so mountains tower steeply above the narrow valley. At first sight the town seems to be entirely modern, built of conventional but good architecture. Even that ubiquitous monster, the multi-storey car park, has been

Russell Chamberlin finds a fierce tradition of national independence beyond the duty-free goods on a visit to the tiny state of Andorra, wedged between France and Spain



tamed and subsumed into the townscape, helped by the startling variations of levels.

Tucked away within the modern townscape are sturdy survivals from the past: intimate little squares with light-hearted statuary and enchanting fountains. Outstanding among the architectural survivals is the Casa de la Vall — in effect, the parliament building — and its square. The carefully posed tourist photographs give the impression that this sturdy, stone-built 16th century building is in rural surroundings. In fact, it is slap-bang in the commercial heart, giving it identity and a dignity of continuity.

Andorra has one of Europe's most remarkable constitutions. It claims, indeed, to be unique in the world. Legend has it that the state was founded by Charlemagne. Certainly it was in existence by the 13th century, when it was ruled by the Count of Foix and the (Spanish) Bishop of Urgell. In the pretty little square outside the Casa, a sculpture commemorates the 700th anniversary of the



Village life: humble exteriors conceal surprising history

foundation of the state in 1278. The gleaming bald head of President Giscard d'Estaing in the sculpture easily identifies the current successor to the Count of Foix.

The Casa is open to the public when the council is not sitting, and is a must on any itinerary, for its architectural as well as historic interest. The meeting hall of one of Europe's oldest parliaments is cosily panelled in wood. Nearby is the legendary cupboard of the six locks, where the archives of the tiny state were housed, each of the then six parishes holding a key. Down below is a kitchen with a vast central hearth, like any mountain farmhouse. In these high valleys, representatives

could be marooned for days in winter, and they were evidently determined to make themselves comfortable.

In the small town of Engat, a mile or so away up the valley of the Valira del Nord is another aristocratic mansion, now a museum which provides a picture of the surprisingly luxurious way of life possible in these seemingly barren, if beautiful valleys of the high Pyrenees. Built in the early 17th century, its series of rooms are filled with family furniture and treasures, of which the most outstanding is the immense Sévres dining set, a gift to the family from no less a person than the Austrian emperor.

Despite the lack of space, the little towns and villages still somehow maintain their separate identities. Most poignant are the Romanesque churches, minute structures frequently smaller than any of the houses over which they preside, yet endowed inside with a wealth of art, naive but with tremendous impact. Predellas are richly decorated with a narrative of the church's patron saint, and the beams of roofs and porches are richly carved.

In the church at Canillo, on the main road to France, a 12th century stucco sculpture of Christ, discovered and restored in 1963, though fragmented, exerts a brooding presence over a nave that would fit into a suburban house.

Modern church architecture can match anything from the past. The famous sanctuary of Meritxell was almost totally destroyed by fire in 1972. The decision was taken not to rebuild: a great new church, cool in black and white and uncompromisingly modern, has been built alongside the carefully preserved ruins of the old, visually linked to it but separate. Not a bad symbol for this little state which, against all probabilities, maintains its independence, linked to its neighbours — but separate.

TRAVEL NOTES

We flew Iberia to Barcelona (cheapest Moneysaver return flights from £129). Information 071-437 9822, and drove on to Andorra by hired car. (There is also a twice-daily bus.) We stayed at the Hotel Pyrenees in the older part of Andorra-la-Vella with a good room at around £28 a night (010 33 628 20508).

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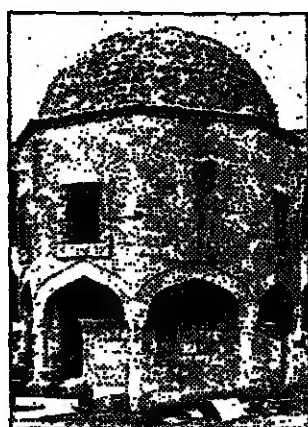
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RACE

TRAVEL

Turkish, with a difference



Caravanserai mosque

Peter Strafford

explores the

little-known

pleasures of

Northern Cyprus

North Cyprus has become one of the best-kept secrets of the Mediterranean. It is not likely to stay that way now that tourism is building up, but for the time being it has a peaceful, unspoiled character which is a direct result of more than a decade of relative isolation.

It has, of course, changed since 1974, when years of tension between Greek and Turkish Cypriots culminated in the occupation of the north by the Turkish army. Greek Cypriots moved out of the towns and villages of the north, just as Turkish Cypriots moved out of their homes in the south, and the atmosphere, once predominantly Greek, is now Turkish.

It is, however, Turkish with a difference. Because of their own history, the Turkish Cypriots are gentler, more cosmopolitan and, on average, better off than the Turks of the mainland. But they are equally hospitable, and the restaurants, particularly in and around Kyrenia, draw on the full riches of the Turkish cuisine.

There are also some superb sites, relics of a long history which has seen the island occupied and ruled by a succession of peoples: Mycenaean Greeks, Romans, Byzantines, Crusaders, Venetians and Ottoman Turks. I often saw no one else at the sites — just lizards scrambling over the fallen stones in the sunshine.

We made our base in Kyrenia (Girne in Turkish). It has a pretty harbour, lined with bars and restaurants, and reflects the recent history of Cyprus by having a Greek Orthodox church (now closed) at one end, and a mosque at the other. In the centre is a picturesque stone tower topped with a pillar which, in medieval times, supported the heavy metal chain that was



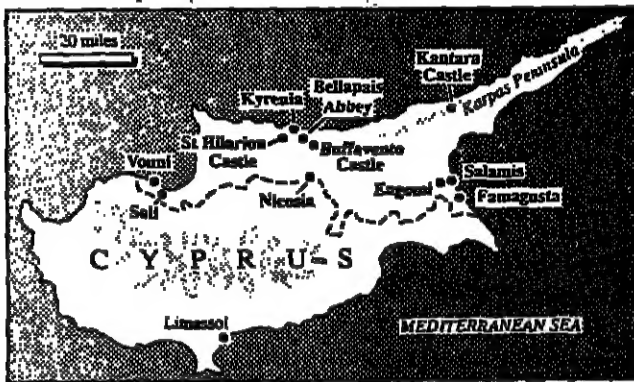
Quiet heritage: the ruins of the 13th-century Gothic abbey of Bellapais receive few visitors apart from scurrying lizards

strung across the entrance to keep out hostile intruders.

Dominating the scene is a massive castle, which dates back to Byzantine times but was extensively rebuilt by the Venetians. It was a largely wasted effort, because after less than 100 years of Venetian rule it was surrendered to the Turks without a shot, after the fortified harbour of Famagusta had fallen to them at the end of a long siege.

Kyrenia castle is still an impressive and theatrical place to visit. Inside it, carefully preserved, is the wreck of a Greek trading ship of about 300 BC. This was discovered off the coast in the 1960s and was raised from the sea-bed complete with a cargo of amphorae, millstones and even almonds, probably the crew's rations.

Kyrenia is a good base for seeing northern Cyprus because it is pretty and also central. Towering over it, a few miles to the south, is the Kyrenia mountain range with



its jagged line of peaks, and nowhere is more than a few hours' drive away. Car hire is relatively cheap and the roads generally good, as well as uncrowded.

Along the coast, to both east and west, is a succession of sandy beaches with clear blue water. We were particularly taken with Deniz Kizi, or Mermaid Beach, where you can either sit on the sand under bamboo beach umbrellas or watch the scene from a terrace bar.

A few miles inland from Kyrenia is one of the most enchanting places in northern Cyprus, the village of Bellapais. Perched on a hillside and surrounded by lush vegetation, the village is dominated by the ruins of its Gothic abbey, built in the 13th century when Cyprus was ruled by the Lusignans, a Crusader family.

Bellapais was the setting for Lawrence Durrell's *Bitter Lemons*, which described his stay in Cyprus in the 1950s when the village was predomi-

nantly Greek. The abbey ruins, with their honey-coloured stone, bare, elegant arches and soaring cypresses trees, are still hauntingly beautiful. While I was there, they were being used for the first International Girne (Kyrenia) Festival of Music, with performers from Britain, the United States, France, Turkey and Cyprus.

Also from the Lusignan period, and built on one of the peaks of the Kyrenia range, is another dramatic site: the castle of St Hilarion. Like Kyrenia castle, St Hilarion was originally a Byzantine stronghold, but was extended by the Lusignans and now has a fairy-tale quality, with ruins climbing up and crowning a sharply pointed mountain-top.

As you clamber up the path you can see far below, as if from an aeroplane, the harbour of Kyrenia and the surrounding plain dotted with villages and, further out, the sea. A good place to pause and take in the view is a café built

in the ruins where you can drink sharp, freshly pressed orange juice.

There are two other castles, Buffavento and Kantara, both built on the heights of the Kyrenia range and offering magnificent views on a clear day you can see the Taurus mountains in Turkey. But northern Cyprus is not all mountains, and we crossed the Kyrenia range to the central plain heading for Nicosia, the divided capital of a divided island.

Nicosia, or Lefkoşa in Turkish, still has the extensive, star-shaped fortifications left by the Venetians. The old city, inside the walls, is divided by the Green Line and if you go to a high point, such as the restaurant of the Saray Hotel, you can see the contrast between the two sectors: the Greek side sprouting new white high-rise buildings, the Turkish less high and less developed, with an orange tint from the many tiled roofs.

The dominant building in Turkish Nicosia is the Selimiye mosque, originally built as Santa Sophia cathedral in the 13th century. When the Turks captured Cyprus in the 16th century, they gave it two large minarets and changed its internal axis so prayers are now said facing south, in the direction of Mecca, rather than east. But beneath the trimmings of Islam it remains an impressive piece of French Gothic architecture.

The surrounding streets are often shabby but full of evocative buildings from Cyprus's past. There is Haider Pasha

mosque, also a former church, and Arab Ahmet mosque, an enchanting little building from the Ottoman period; there are two Ottoman *hans* or caravanserais, the Büyük and the Kumarcilar, and several old houses turned into museums.

For anyone interested in Cyprus's history, and the interplay of Christian and Muslim, Turkish Nicosia is an absorbing place.

The same is true of Famagusta, Gazimagusa in Turkish. At one time this was one of the richest ports in the eastern Mediterranean, and a sense of past grandeur and tragedy pervades the old town. Its surviving churches, some converted to other uses, some still standing in ruins, tower over the hustle and bustle of today.

Here, too, are powerful Venetian fortifications, and the Lion of St Mark can be seen on one of the bastions known as Othello's Tower. By the walls were not strong enough to withstand the long Turkish siege of 1570-71, and the fall of Famagusta was a turning point in Cyprus's history, marking its incorporation into the Ottoman Empire.

There is another former cathedral here, and it is even sadder looking than the Selimiye in Nicosia. Built as St Nicholas in the 14th century, with some superb stone tracery, it was given a small minaret after 1571 and since then has been known as the Lala Mustafa Pasha mosque, after the commander of the besieging Turkish forces.

Famagusta, too, is somewhere to stroll and meditate. The great cathedral-turned-mosque is only one of many honey-coloured churches from the great days of the past. For an overall view you can go up on to the city walls.

For a complete change of atmosphere you have only to drive a few miles north to Salamis, an elegant survival from the Graeco-Roman period. Salamis was a prosperous port in its day and its ruins, many still unexcavated, cover a wide area.

The visible remains make it one of the high spots of a trip to northern Cyprus. Marble columns, topped with Corinthian-style capitals, surround the former gymnasium, and tucked away in the nearby baths are some fine strips of mosaic, including a portrait of the Eurotas river-god. To the south is the restored, perhaps over-restored, theatre.

There is much more to be seen in northern Cyprus, from the Karpas peninsula in the east to the orange-groves of the Güzeyurt area in the west. There is the pleasure of coming upon other deserted sites from the remote past: the Mycenaean-period city at Engomi, near Salamis; the floor mosaics at Soli, a Graeco-Roman city in the west; and the nearby mountain-top palace at Vouni, built under Persian influence in the 5th century BC.

TRAVEL NOTES

Cyprus Turkish Airlines (071-830 4851) has flights from Heathrow to Ercan airport, outside Nicosia, midweek economy return fares from £240. Noble Air (071-495 2535) flies to Ercan from Gatwick and Stansted. Fax fares from £200. Package tours are available from President Travel (071-248 4002), Mosaic Holidays (071-355 3464) and Cricketer Holidays (0892 664242).

Au-dessus de sa gare

Ronald Faux enjoyed two days of pre-Revolutionary splendour in a superior French château



"From the Château de Mercuès, history rises"

Cahors lies towards the south-west corner of France, close enough to the Pyrenees for there to form a majestic backdrop on a clear day. It is a 7km drive to the Château de Mercuès, built on a hill above the town where legend has it the god Mercury touched down an Olympian god and granted the spot his name.

When Christian beliefs swept away all other such influences in the Lot region some 1,200 years ago, a small chapel appeared on the hill-top. This was eventually fortified and by the 13th century had developed into a substantial structure. The same walls designed to resist invaders now welcome guests, since Mercuès has been richly restored as a

most exclusive hotel and restaurant where visitors may imagine themselves for a short time part of the pre-Revolution French nobility.

The man behind the transformation and re-establishment of the vineyards linked with the Château de Mercuès is Georges Vigouroux, the latest in an ancient family line of wine growers and merchants in the Cahors district.

Two years ago, M. Vigouroux planted the high, stony ground which once yielded excellent wine for the Bishop-Lords and noble clergy of Mercuès. The first harvest yielded the 1987 Cahors Château de Mercuès and another cru, Château Haut Mercuès, links the building with its prestige past. M. Vigouroux has grand plans for the future although tradition will always be the master. "When the oenologist takes the place of the wine grower, technicity kills genius," he once said.

Technicity has not been allowed too free a hand in the hotel which the château has become, with modern comfort incorporated unobtrusively in to the old walls, stone floors and the solemn ambience of the château.

Each bedroom is decorated with a different style. Tall antique cupboards, chests of drawers, tapestries and heavy curtains, writing desks and elegant decoration give an impression of private home rather than hotel.

Most in demand is the tower bedroom, set high in a 120ft-tall donjon with a glass ceiling. The Bishop's bedroom is also popular, being once the private suite of senior clergy. After General de Gaulle had stayed there and admired the

view that plunges into the Lot valley, he wrote: "From the Château de Mercuès, history rises." Food is taken no less seriously than wine at this centre for those in search of good food elegant surroundings and an ambience of history. From his kitchen Hervé Guérin produces a menu of excellent quality. Complemented by the wines of Cahors, the meal gave our table the air of a group of benign bishops. Four hours later we had been whisked back to Luton.

of good food elegant surroundings and an ambience of history. From his kitchen Hervé Guérin produces a menu of excellent quality. Complemented by the wines of Cahors, the meal gave our table the air of a group of benign bishops. Four hours later we had been whisked back to Luton.

TRAVEL NOTES

● Air Foyle offers a programme of Escapade holidays with two nights' accommodation at more than 20 destinations in France. The Château de Mercuès visit cost £570 per person. Further details from Air Foyle Executive, Halsey House, Luton Airport, Luton LU2 9LU (0582 415792).

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TRAVEL

High spirits in the kingdom of the dead

PHOTOGRAPHS: MICHAEL MACINTYRE/JEREMY A. HORNER

Frederic Spotts visits the ancient civilization of Torajaland in Indonesia, where funerals are a time for celebration



Woodwind: native flautist

One of the greatest pleasures of travel comes from being able to combine a dramatic change of location with an authentic step back in time. The pleasure is all the greater if the place is scenically outstanding and the time change is one, not of mere centuries, but of millennia.

When the area is accessible, not just to rugged young trekkers prepared to rough it but also to ageing sybarites wanting air-conditioned transport, a western bed and bath, a swimming pool, a bar and dining room, there you have a Shangri-La with all mod cons.

Such a place is Torajaland in the highlands of southern Sulawesi, the oddly shaped Indonesian island known in English as Celebes. Hidden away in this remote mountainous area is an ancient civilization, little changed over many centuries, and some of the most sublime scenery to be found in Asia.

By far the most curious feature of Torajaland civilization — and what attracts most visitors — is its death cult and the related ceremonies and tombs. Although Christianity is now the predominant religion, it is only a thin veneer over traditional animist beliefs and ancestor worship.

The Torajan is obsessed by death and, like the ancient Egyptian, believes you can take it with you. A funeral ceremony is therefore as much celebration as obsequy — in fact it is called a "festival of the dead" — and requires the sacrifice of the most precious of a family's possessions, its farm animals, in the belief that they will join the dead person in the next life. Throngs of relatives, friends and villagers from miles around attend the event, which lasts from three to 10 days.

The higher the caste of the deceased, the longer the ceremony and the larger the number of animals sacrificed. Although for a poor peasant, one water buffalo and six or eight pigs suffice, for the noble caste as many as 24 buffalo and 200 pigs are slaughtered. In James Frazer's *The Golden Bough* one can read about ancient blood sacrifices; in Torajaland one can still actually witness them. The ceremony is an experience never to be forgotten, gruesome but fascinating.

No one may be buried without such a ceremony. Until a family accumulates the necessary wealth — often a matter of years — the loved one is stored in a spare room at home. It is not uncommon when visiting a Torajan family to find that a deceased relative has been lying upstairs in a coffin for years awaiting burial.

The tombs themselves are renowned as the strangest in the world. The simplest are chiselled into huge stone boulders; most of these go back to the 18th century. More modern ones, shaped like miniature Torajan houses, stand on stilts in rice fields. Several others lie in deep limestone caves strewn with bones and skulls that have fallen from decayed coffins and inhabited by bats, and spiders the size of a large hand.

Older yet are the infants' graves lodged in big trees, in the belief that the child's soul will grow with the tree. The most famous tombs are those immured in sheer cliffs, hundreds of feet above ground, so that they cannot be looted of jewellery and other precious objects. These are for persons of the highest caste, who are immortalized in wooden effigies, called *tau-tau*, placed in a sort of balcony built much lower down on the cliff. There they stand century after century, staring into space as if from the promenade deck of some bizarre ship.

Travellers also come to Torajaland for another reason, to see the unique houses. These two-storey oblong structures look like earth-bound ships, prows high in the air. Their fronts and sides are often marvellously decorated with colourful and elaborate geometrical patterns and animal figures. Buffalo horns, displayed on a vertical column at the front, proclaim a family's status and wealth. Some houses are many hundreds of years old, their palm-thatched roofs covered with vegetation and the whole structure bleached a venerable grey.

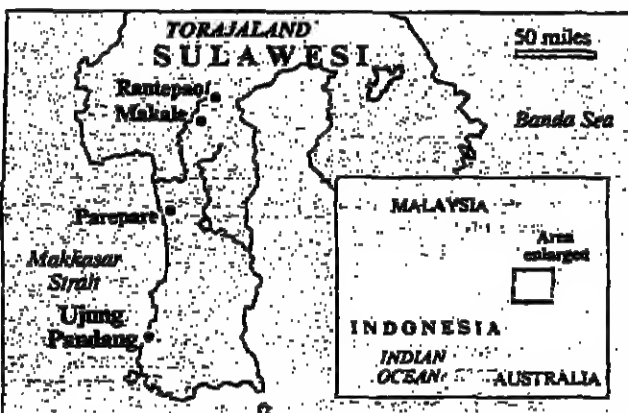
The typical Torajan village is a row of 10 or 12 such houses, faced by a row of small, similarly shaped, rice barns. Viewed from a distance, the houses look like the starting line of a terrestrial regatta, as in a way they should, since the Torajans' explanation for this curious architecture is that their Indo-Chinese ancestors were washed ashore in a storm and eventually moved inland, taking their shipwrecked boats with them as homes. The "nautilus" style has been maintained ever since.

Just a few miles off the narrow tourist track is a tropical land which one can explore with a rare sense of adventure. Rantepao, the main town of Torajaland, is a hub of trails and crude dirt roads that lead in every direction. Walks or treks can be arranged, on one's own or with a local guide, that last from half a day to several weeks. Not only is the landscape spectacular, but one passes through villages and rice fields where one sees scenes of daily life as it has been lived for more than a thousand years.

A trip to Torajaland starts in Ujung Padang, the capital of the island on the southern coast. The interesting drive north takes about eight hours, allowing for stops along the way for lunch and refreshments. The initial 100 kilometres is along a flat coastal



Shipwrecked in the jungle: a typical Torajan village of ark-like houses decorated with patterns and animal figures. Some are hundreds of years old, their palm-thatched roofs covered with vegetation



TRAVEL NOTES

● Getting there: the Indonesian national airline Garuda flies from London to Ujung Padang via Jakarta. Travelers (071-939 3366) quotes from £784 return. For Rantepao, it is possible to hire an air-conditioned minibus or take the public Liman Express buses. There is a daily flight, although it operates only if there are enough passengers and the weather permits.

● Hotels: in Ujung Padang, the best hotels are the almost new Marannu City Hotel and the Makassar Golden; Pondok Suanda Indah is a charming colonial style hotel. In Rantepao, the Toraja Cottages and Hotel Misiliana are the most comfortable. There are dozens of simpler and cheaper places to stay. Indonesian Express (071-491 4489) arranges bespoke itineraries.

● When to go: spring and autumn are probably the best times. The monsoon period is from November to March, but even at their worst the rains usually hold off until late afternoon.

● Language and conduct: in Torajaland few people outside the hotels speak English, but guides with adequate English can be found without difficulty. Extremely casual dress is considered unseemly, especially at funeral ceremonies.

plain covered with rice fields; the road is often in sight of the sea and by the roadside are stalls festooned with large dried fish. Off in the distance lie steep jungle-covered limestone hills, described nearly 150 years ago by the naturalist A.R. Wallace: "Nowhere in [Indonesia] have I seen such gorges, chasms and precipices; in many parts there are vertical or even over-hanging precipices 500ft or 600ft high, yet completely clothed with a tapestry of vegetation."

About half-way up the peninsula is Parepare, a convenient place for lunch. After that the road, which often runs parallel to the impressive Sada River, climbs into the Sinaji mountains. The temperature plunges to the low 80s, the vistas become steadily more impressive and the trees and vegetation change. In addition to the ubiquitous banana and coconut trees now appear clove plantations, fields of cassava, teak trees and wild coffee bushes along with several types of pine.

This is an area of subsistence farming and across the vast distances are very few signs of habitation. Little roadside stands sell pink and yellow bags filled with sweets made of brown sugar and peanuts, sacks of *salak* (a small bland fruit covered in what looks to be brown snake-skin) and coffee.

The road enters Torajaland at the village of Salubarani, marked by an elaborate gate in the shape of a miniature Torajan house. For most travellers the journey ends in Makale, the area's administrative centre, or in Rantepao, with its much wider range of accommodations and restaurants.

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Burial tombs: the dead are immortalized in wooden effigies, called *tau-tau*, which stand on balconies in the cliffs

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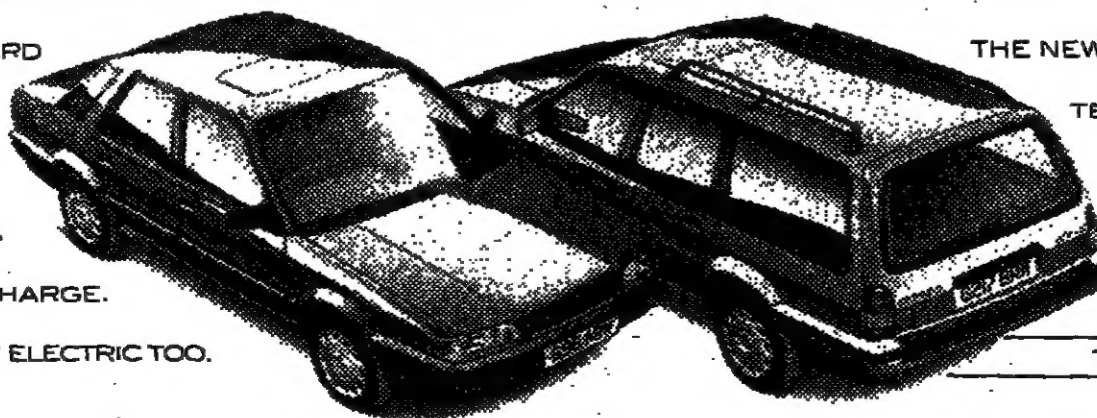
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